

HOUSE No. 3628

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Shawn Dooley

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a special commission to improve fairness in local Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority tax assessments.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Shawn Dooley

9th Norfolk

Michael J. Soter

8th Worcester

HOUSE No. 3628

By Mr. Dooley of Norfolk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3628) of Shawn Dooley and Michael J. Soter for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to improve fairness in local Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority tax assessments. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act establishing a special commission to improve fairness in local Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority tax assessments.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be established
2 a special commission to study the statutory composition and assessment formula of the
3 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) as it relates to the definition of “51 cities
4 and towns”, “fourteen cities and towns”, and “Other served communities” in section 1 of chapter
5 161A of the General Laws and to recommend statutory changes to account of the expansion and
6 changes of our transportation system and to ensure fairness in taxation. The commission shall be
7 composed of 11 members: 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be
8 appointed by the speaker of the house and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader
9 of the house; 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president and
10 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 2 members representing the
11 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority; 2 members representing the Massachusetts

12 Department of Transportation; 2 members appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be an
13 expert on transportation and 1 of whom shall be an expert on regional planning; and 1 member
14 representing The Massachusetts Municipal Association.

15 The scope of the commission shall include, but shall not be limited to, studying the
16 statutory makeup of the MBTA's "51 cities and towns", "fourteen cities and towns", and "Other
17 served communities"; reviewing the MBTA's local tax assessment formula; and investigating
18 changes and growth in the MBTA's system over time. The committee shall also make
19 recommendations, legislatively and otherwise, to better ensure fairness in taxation and in
20 participation in the authority, with special attention to cities and towns that host MBTA stations
21 and those that do not as well as areas that are served by the MBTA and those that are not.

22 (b) The commission shall report the results of its investigation and its recommendations
23 by filing a report with the clerk of the senate, the clerk of the house of representatives, the joint
24 committee on transportation, the office of the governor, the Massachusetts Department of
25 Transportation, the executive director of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and
26 the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's fiscal and management control board no later
27 than 6 months after the first meeting of the commission is convened.

28 (c) The commission shall conduct its first meeting no later than 60 days after the effective
29 date of this act.