

SENATE No. 1194

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eric P. Lesser

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 to reform the distribution of unrestricted local aid.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Edward J. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/12/2019</i>

SENATE No. 1194

By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1194) of Eric P. Lesser, Antonio F. D. Cabral, Edward J. Kennedy, Donald F. Humason, Jr. and other members of the General Court for legislation to reform the distribution of unrestricted local aid . Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to reform the distribution of unrestricted local aid.

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

1 SECTION 1. There shall be a commission to study the distribution of general local aid in
2 the commonwealth, including unrestricted general government aid, lottery aid as promulgated
3 394 in section 18C of chapter 58 of the General Laws and additional assistance aid to
4 municipalities. The study shall not include foundation aid as defined in section 2 of chapter 70 of
5 the General Laws.

6 SECTION 2. The commission shall examine the current formula used to distribute
7 unrestricted general government aid to municipalities, evaluate the effectiveness and equity of
8 said formula and make recommendations to establish a more equitable distribution of
9 unrestricted general government aid to municipalities in the commonwealth. The commission
10 shall review all aspects of general local aid including, but not limited to (a) the current allocation
11 of local aid to municipalities; (b) the reflectiveness of municipalities’ needs in the proportional
12 distribution of the unrestricted general government aid formula; (c) any equity disparities that

13 exist between municipalities across the commonwealth related to local aid distribution; (d) the
14 ability to account for a municipality's change in population or tax base in a general local aid
15 funding formula; (e) the potential to calculate municipal costs based on a municipality's need for
16 municipal services and a municipality's ability to raise local revenue, less a municipality's local
17 revenues; and (f) any alternative formulas that may create a more equitable distribution of
18 general local aid.

19 SECTION 3. The commission shall consist of: the secretary of administration and
20 finance, or a designee; the commissioner of the department of revenue, or a designee; 1 member
21 appointed by the state treasurer; 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall represent a gateway
22 municipality as defined in section 3A of chapter 23A of the General Laws and shall serve as co-
23 chair; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall represent a gateway
24 municipality as defined in said section 3A of said chapter 23A and shall serve as co-chair; 5
25 members appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be nominated by the Massachusetts
26 Municipal Association, Inc., 1 of whom shall be nominated by the Federal Reserve Bank of
27 Boston, 1 of whom shall be nominated by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Inc., 1 of
28 whom shall be nominated by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Inc., and 1 of whom shall
29 be nominated by the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at the University of
30 Massachusetts at Boston.

31 SECTION 4. The commission shall file a report of its findings and recommendations,
32 including any new or revised local aid formulas, with the clerks of the senate and house of
33 representatives, the chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means, and the
34 senate and house chairs of the joint committee on municipalities and regional government not
35 later than March 1, 2020.