

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1344**

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**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 establish a commission to study the distribution of unrestricted local aid.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1344**

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By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1344) of Eric P. Lesser, Kelly W. Pease, Susan L. Moran and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to reform the distribution of unrestricted local aid. Municipalities and Regional Government.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1194 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to establish a commission to study 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. (a) Notwithstanding any special or general laws to the contrary, there shall  
2 be a commission to study the distribution of general local aid in the commonwealth, including  
3 unrestricted general government aid, lottery aid as promulgated 394 in section 18C of chapter 58  
4 of the General Laws and additional assistance aid to municipalities. The study shall not include  
5 foundation aid as defined in section 2 of chapter 70 of the General Laws.

6           (b) The commission shall examine the current formula used to distribute unrestricted  
7 general government aid to municipalities, evaluate the effectiveness and equity of said formula  
8 and make recommendations to establish a more equitable distribution of unrestricted general  
9 government aid to municipalities in the commonwealth. The commission shall review all aspects  
10 of general local aid including, but not limited to (a) the current allocation of local aid to

11 municipalities; (b) the reflectiveness of municipalities' needs in the proportional distribution of  
12 the unrestricted general government aid formula; (c) any equity disparities that exist between  
13 municipalities across the commonwealth related to local aid distribution; (d) the ability to  
14 account for a municipality's change in population or tax base in a general local aid funding  
15 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 (c) The commission shall consist of: the secretary of administration and finance, or a  
20 designee; the commissioner of the department of revenue, or a designee; 1 member appointed by  
21 the state treasurer; 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall represent a gateway municipality as  
22 defined in section 3A of chapter 23A of the General Laws and shall serve as co-chair; 2 members  
23 of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall represent a gateway municipality as defined in  
24 said section 3A of said chapter 23A and shall serve as co-chair; 5 members appointed by the  
25 governor, 1 of whom shall be nominated by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc., 1 of  
26 whom shall be nominated by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 1 of whom shall be nominated  
27 by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Inc., 1 of whom shall be nominated by the  
28 Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Inc., and 1 of whom shall be nominated by the Edward J.  
29 Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

30 (d) The commission shall file a report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
31 new or revised local aid formulas, with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the  
32 chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means, and the senate and house chairs  
33 of the joint committee on municipalities and regional government not later than July 1, 2021.