

SENATE No. 2269

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

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 fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service between Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>

SENATE No. 2269

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2269) of Paul W. Mark and Vanna Howard for legislation to establish fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service between Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2345 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to establish fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service between Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2 Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall run passenger rail service between the cities
3 of Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield at least five-times daily on the existing CSX rail line.
4 The department may utilize the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority or contract with outside
5 entities in order to run said passenger rail service. The department may also utilize a portion or
6 all of the \$50 million in capital authorization allocated for East-West passenger rail service
7 pursuant to line item 6622-2184 in section 2E of chapter 383 of the acts of 2020.

8 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
9 Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall evaluate and identify potential funding

10 sources, including capital investments and ongoing operations and maintenance funding, at both
11 the state and federal level, to support the establishment of fast, frequent, and reliable passenger
12 rail service between the cities of Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield. The department shall also
13 determine all necessary steps the commonwealth must take in order to best position itself for any
14 available federal funding.

15 The department shall file a report of its findings with the clerks of the house and senate,
16 and with the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on transportation, not later than six
17 months after the effective date of this act.

18 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, pursuant to the
19 recommendations of the 2020 East-West Passenger Rail Study conducted by the Massachusetts
20 Department of Transportation, the department shall conduct an economic impact analysis on the
21 economic benefits and transformational impact that expanded passenger rail service between
22 Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield would have in the commonwealth on a community,
23 regional, and statewide level.

24 The analysis shall examine and evaluate the potential effects said passenger rail would
25 have on the long-term demographic and growth patterns of Massachusetts; the ability to offer
26 affordable housing options, relieve traffic congestion and bring down the high cost of housing;
27 the expansion of regional workforce reach and job opportunities across the commonwealth; the
28 ability to provide significant economic benefits to communities along the rail corridor; and any
29 other effects deemed necessary by the department in order to ensure a complete economic impact
30 analysis. Said analysis shall include, but not be limited to: (i) examining similarly situated
31 projects in other states, including the economic and demographic results achieved and significant

32 contributors to those results; (ii) evaluating the current and prospective factors affecting regional
33 growth in Western Massachusetts; (iii) examining the availability of federal, state, local and
34 private sector funding sources and the potential impact of said investments; and (iv) evaluating
35 how passenger rail service between the cities of Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield may change
36 regional land use and housing policy.

37 The department shall file a copy of said analysis with the clerks of the house and senate,
38 and with the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on transportation, not later than six
39 months after the effective date of this act.

40 SECTION 4. Section 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2024.