

SENATE . . . . . No. 2285

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jacob R. Oliveira

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 electrifying Regional Transit Authorities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Jacob R. Oliveira	Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester	
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	17th Worcester	
Julian Cyr	Cape and Islands	
Jack Patrick Lewis	7th Middlesex	1/30/2023
John F. Keenan	Norfolk and Plymouth	2/14/2023
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	2/21/2023
Marc R. Pacheco	Third Bristol and Plymouth	2/23/2023
Michael O. Moore	Second Worcester	3/17/2023
Rebecca L. Rausch	Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex	3/30/2023
Pavel Payano	First Essex	11/8/2023

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By Mr. Oliveira, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2285) of Jacob R. Oliveira, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Julian Cyr, Jack Patrick Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to electrify Regional Transit Authorities. Transportation.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act electrifying Regional Transit Authorities.

*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. Section 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following definitions:-

3 “Electric vehicles” are vehicles that rely solely on electric motors for propulsion and  
4 includes non-combustion vehicles.

5 SECTION 2. Section 6 of chapter 161B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting  
6 after paragraph (r), the following paragraph:-

7 (s) The authorities shall operate electric vehicles with a priority for operating such buses  
8 on routes serving environmental justice populations as defined in section 62 of chapter 30 of the  
9 General Laws. Authorities shall conduct robust community outreach and engagement with  
10 residents of environmental justice populations, municipal officials in cities and towns that have  
11 environmental justice populations, and with transportation and environmental justice advocates.

12 The authorities shall implement electrification along all regional transit authorities by no later  
13 than December 31, 2035 and meet the following procurement targets.

14 The Secretary, in consultation with the executive office for administration and finance,  
15 shall require that new electric vehicles purchased by the authorities shall be electric vehicles  
16 according to the following deadlines: (i) 40 per cent of all purchases in 2025; (ii) 60 per cent of  
17 all purchases in 2028; (iii) 80 per cent of all purchases in 2032; and (iv) 90 per cent of all  
18 purchases in 2034.

19 The authorities shall report annually beginning June 30, 2024 to the Regional Transit  
20 Authority Council pursuant to Section 27 of chapter 161B the progress of electrifying the bus  
21 fleet. As part of the public reports, authorities shall explain the cost analysis of all procurements  
22 of fossil fuel infrastructure and the reasons for procuring internal combustion engines and fossil  
23 fuel infrastructure in lieu of electric vehicles and zero-emission infrastructure.

24 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall establish a central planning and  
25 procurement office by August 30, 2024. The central planning and procurement office shall be  
26 tasked with technical, planning, grant writing, procurement, and worker retraining support for  
27 implementation of the electric vehicle bus rollout plans. The department of transportation central  
28 planning and procurement office shall create an electric vehicle bus rollout plan as described in  
29 section 78 and chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022 for each authority by June 30, 2025.

30 Any employees who become unemployed as a result of the transition to electric buses  
31 from implementation of this act will be provided with free retraining options and hiring  
32 assistance to transition to another role. The employers of any labor required to design, build, and

33 maintain infrastructure related to RTA electric buses will pay a prevailing wage, be subject to  
34 project labor agreements, and at a minimum remain neutral to unionization efforts.

35           The department of transportation in consultation with the Secretary shall identify sources  
36 of funding to support the implementation of the electric vehicle bus rollout plans and may pursue  
37 federal funding opportunities to support electric vehicle penetration throughout the  
38 Commonwealth in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 21N.