SENATE DOCKET, NO. 296 FILED ON: 1/12/2023

SENATE . . . . . No. 1977

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 advancing equity for rural communities receiving state grants.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Joanne M. Comerford	*Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester*	
Carmine Lawrence Gentile	*13th Middlesex*	*10/12/2023*

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 296 FILED ON: 1/12/2023

SENATE . . . . . No. 1977

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1977) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to advance equity for rural communities receiving state grants. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *2029* OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act advancing equity for rural communities receiving state grants.

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

Chapter 7 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after section 62 the following section:-

Section 63. As used in this section the following words shall have the following meanings:-

"Rural communities", municipalities with population densities of less than 500 persons per square mile.

The secretary shall direct all departments, commissions, offices, boards, divisions, institutions or other agencies administering grant programs to give preference to rural

communities, particularly those that intend to use funds to regionalize or share services, and to grant applicants that serve rural communities.

The secretary shall direct all such agencies to identify and inform rural communities of discretionary grant programs and incentives for which rural communities wishing to regionalize or share services could benefit from preferences under this section.

The secretary shall annually, on or before July 1, report on the implementation of this section to the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on municipalities and regional government and members of the general court who represent rural communities.