

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4054**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Leigh Davis*

*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 establishing a microtransit fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Leigh Davis</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Lisa Field</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>9/16/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4054**

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By Representative Davis of Great Barrington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4054) of Leigh Davis for legislation to establish a microtransit fund. Transportation.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing a microtransit fund.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to address expanding transportation access to rural areas of the commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

1 Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting, after section 2JJJJJ, the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 2KKKKKK. (a) For the purposes of section, the following words shall, unless the  
4 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

5 “Department”, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

6 “Fair share funds”, revenues generated under the fair share amendment designated for  
7 education and transportation.

8 “Frequent bus service”, fixed-route bus operations, including routes that operate a  
9 minimum of 15-minute frequency between the hours of 7AM to 7 PM, Monday through Sunday.

10 “Microtransit”, technology-driven, demand-responsive shared transportation services  
11 with flexible routes and schedules.

12 “Regional Transit Authorities”, public transportation agencies operating outside the  
13 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority service area.

14 “Secretary”, the secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

15 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
16 fund known as the Microtransit Fund, hereinafter referred to as the fund. The purpose of the fund  
17 shall be to: (i) establish a dedicated funding stream for microtransit projects statewide; (ii)  
18 promote regional equity in transit services; (iii) reduce greenhouse gas emissions through  
19 sustainable transit solutions; and (iv) support and expand existing microtransit operations  
20 without disrupting current programs. The fund shall be administered by the secretary.

21 (c) The fund shall be credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money  
22 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund;

23 (ii) interest earned on money in the fund; (iii) contributions from private sector entities,  
24 including technology firms, foundations and other organizations; (iv) federal grants and other  
25 gifts, grants and donations for the establishment and support of microtransit projects; and (v) a  
26 minimum of 3 per cent of annual fair share funds to support microtransit projects. Amounts  
27 credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any money remaining in the  
28 fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

29 (d) The secretary shall make expenditures from the fund including, but not limited to, the  
30 following purposes: (i) creating a dedicated funding stream for microtransit services, addressing  
31 transportation inequities in rural and underserved communities across the commonwealth; (ii)  
32 prioritizing and improving first-mile/last-mile connectivity in underserved communities  
33 in the commonwealth; (iii) partnering with other microtransit programs already operating in the  
34 commonwealth, such as the south county connector, Quaboag connector and Franklin county's  
35 access program, to provide reliable access to essential services for residents in rural areas; (iv)  
36 promoting the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicle fleets to reduce emissions; and (v)  
37 providing resources for driver recruitment, training and retention to address operational  
38 challenges.

39 (e) The secretary shall make expenditures from the fund to rural or low-density arenas in  
40 the commonwealth that do not have access to rapid transit or frequent bus service. Rural or low-  
41 density areas shall be municipalities located outside of urbanized areas as defined by the Federal  
42 Transit Administration's urbanized area formula grants pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5307.

43 (f) Up to 5 per cent of the fund may be allocated for public awareness campaigns to  
44 educate residents of the commonwealth on accessing and benefiting from microtransit services.

45 (g) All funded projects shall align with the commonwealth's 2050 decarbonization  
46 roadmap to: (i) promote equity, sustainability and cost-effective transit solutions; and (ii) include  
47 measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with clear benchmarks and transparency.

48 (h) The department shall: (i) develop application guidelines and award funds within 90  
49 days of the fund's effective date; (ii) monitor benchmarks, including: (A) a 30 per cent increase  
50 in transit access in underserved areas within 5 years; (B) a cost per revenue hour of below \$60,

51 inflation-adjusted; (C) an annual average vehicle ride-share rate of at least 15 per cent; and (D)  
52 25 per cent adoption of electric or hybrid vehicles; (iii) collect annual project reports and equity  
53 impact assessments from fund recipients to demonstrate progress in improving access for  
54 underserved populations; and (iv) publish annual reports and conduct independent audits to  
55 ensure transparency.

56 (i) The department shall annually, not later than December 31, report on the activity of  
57 the fund to the: (i) chairs of the joint committee on transportation; (ii) the chairs of the house and  
58 senate committees on ways and means; and (iii) the clerks of the house of representatives and  
59 senate.