

HOUSE No. 4830

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 18, 2025.

The committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3311) of Leigh Davis and others relative to state grants for rural communities, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4830) ought to pass.

For the committee,

ANTONIO F. D. CABRAL.

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

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:

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

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

5 “Rural communities”, municipalities with population densities of less than 500 persons
6 per square mile or a population of less than 7,000 persons, in each case as shown in the most
7 recent U.S. decennial census.

8 The secretary shall direct all departments, commissions, offices, boards, divisions,
9 institutions or other agencies administering grant programs to rural communities, particularly
10 those that intend to use funds to regionalize or share services, and whose median household
11 income is below the state average, that a required local fund match set forth in the grant program
12 guidelines shall be waived by the awarding agency.

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

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