

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven Owens and Jennifer Balinsky Armini

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 relative to setting deadlines to electrify the commuter rail.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/3/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3392 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to setting deadlines to electrify the commuter rail.

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 21N of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following definitions:-

3 “Zero-emission transit infrastructure”, electric multiple units, electric battery chargers,
4 trolleybus and railway catenary wire, and other equipment to support the operation of electric
5 vehicles.

6 “Fully electrified service”, public transit conveyance that utilizes zero-emission transit
7 infrastructure and does not produce direct emissions.

8 SECTION 2. Said chapter 21N, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after
9 Section 7, the following section:-

10 Section 7½. (a) To contribute to the Commonwealth’s greenhouse gas reduction targets,
11 the Secretary, in consultation with the department of energy resources, department of
12 transportation, department of environmental protection, department of public utilities, and
13 intergovernmental coordinating council established by the Acts of 2022, chapter 179, section 81
14 shall develop and enforce targets for public transit electrification across all modes of travel. Said
15 targets shall be included and updated in all roadmap plans required under this chapter at the same
16 intervals of sublimits required under section 3.

17 (b) The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and its commuter rail contractor
18 shall provide fully electrified service on the commuter rail system by December 31, 2035 and
19 ensure sufficient zero-emission transit infrastructure is in place to accomplish said timeline.

20 SECTION 3. (a) The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall develop and
21 implement short-term, medium-term and long-term electrification and performance improvement
22 plans for each line of the commuter rail system ensuring that the line is fully integrated into the
23 commonwealth’s transportation system and designed to make the system more productive,
24 equitable, and decarbonized. Each plan shall maximize the ridership returns on investment and
25 shall be designed to meet statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits and sublimits established in
26 chapter 21N of the General Laws.

27 (b)(1) The authority shall include in the short-term plan immediate action items to run
28 fully electrified service as defined under chapter 21N of the General Laws along the
29 Providence/Stoughton commuter rail line, the Fairmont commuter rail line and the segment of
30 the Newburyport commuter rail line and the Rockport commuter rail line that extends from the
31 city of Boston to the city of Beverly by December 31, 2029. The plan shall ensure that the

32 authority shall give priority consideration to lines serving environmental justice populations as
33 defined in section 62 of chapter 30 for subsequent deployment of electrified service. The plan
34 shall include, but not be limited to: (i) a detailed critical path schedule for each phase; (ii) cash
35 flow needs organized by fiscal year through completion of each phase; (iii) a regional strategy to
36 receive all necessary environmental approvals and permits; (iv) identification of needs from
37 utilities to achieve adequate and redundant power to update the system; (v) a platform strategy
38 that would enable the utilization of fully automated doors; (vi) target completion dates; (vii) a
39 conceptual work plan; and (viii) a schedule outlining the work to be pursued over the course of
40 the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Capital Plan.

41 (2) The authority shall include in its medium-term and long-term plans a comprehensive
42 and specific plan to provide fully electrified service on the remainder of the commuter rail fleet
43 for all commuter rail lines as necessary to maximize the ridership returns on investment and
44 comply with chapter 21N of the General Laws. The plan shall include, but not be limited to,
45 necessary updates to layover and maintenance facilities, necessary infrastructure upgrades and a
46 schedule for fleet design, testing, procurement and deployment. The plan shall also include a
47 detailed approach to platform heights that would enable the deployment of fully automated
48 doors.

49 (c) The authority shall publish and receive public comment on its short-term plan under
50 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) not later than November 1, 2026 or 180 days after the effective
51 date of this act, whichever is later. The authority shall publish and receive public comment on its
52 medium-term and long-term plans under paragraph (2) of said subsection (b) not later than
53 December 31, 2028.