

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 569**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Kimberly N. Ferguson***

*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 regarding school transportation funding.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Steven J. Ouellette</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2025</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/22/2025</i>

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By Representative Ferguson of Holden, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 569) of Kimberly N. Ferguson and others relative to school transportation funding. Education.

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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 regarding school transportation funding.

*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. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 7C the following 2 sections:-

3           Section 7D. (a) To provide for the reimbursement of the part of the cost of transportation  
4 not reimbursable under section 7A, the state treasurer shall annually, on or before November  
5 twentieth, pay to a rural school district the sums required for full reimbursement of extraordinary  
6 transportation costs incurred directly by a rural school district as a result of the transportation  
7 between school and home of any pupil.

8           (b) Rural school districts may establish a Rural School Transportation Reimbursement  
9 Account. Reimbursements made by the commonwealth pursuant to this section may be deposited  
10 into the account.

11           (c) Regional school districts that receive reimbursement pursuant to section 16C shall not  
12 be eligible for school transportation reimbursement pursuant to this section.

13           Section 7E. (a) There is hereby established and set upon the books of the commonwealth  
14 a separate fund known as the Non-Resident Pupil Transportation Fund. The fund shall be  
15 credited with: (i) appropriations or other money authorized or transferred by the general court  
16 and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) funds from public and private sources,  
17 including, but not limited to gifts, grants and donations; and (iii) any interest earned on such  
18 money. Amounts credited shall not be subject to appropriation and shall be expended by the  
19 department of elementary and secondary education to reimburse schools for the costs associated  
20 with the transportation of pupils who attend schools in school districts that are not located within  
21 the municipality that the pupil resides in to be administered by the department of elementary and  
22 secondary education in accordance with this section.

23           (b) A qualified school district eligible for funding shall include any school district that  
24 enrolls pupils in its schools who reside outside of the municipality where the school is located.

25           (c) Annually, not later than December first, the department of elementary and secondary  
26 education shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing  
27 the calculation and planned distribution of funds to school districts; provided, that, funds  
28 distributed from this section shall not be considered chapter 70 aid for the calculation of the  
29 minimum required local contribution for the upcoming fiscal year.

30           (d) Every 5 years, the department of elementary and secondary education shall determine  
31 the adequacy of funding for the purposes of this section and recommend to the general court any  
32 necessary adjustment.