

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce J. Ayers

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 the building or rebuilding of bridges on land that falls under the jurisdiction of more than one municipality.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2021 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the building or rebuilding of bridges on land that falls under the jurisdiction of more than one municipality.

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 40 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 4K the following section:-

3 Section 40L. (a) A construction project affecting or relative to building structures in or
4 over navigable or tide waters relating to 2 or more municipalities shall be subject to this section.

5 (b) No construction project shall proceed unless and until the affected municipalities in
6 subsection (a) enter into a inter-municipal agreement pursuant to the provisions of this section.

7 Each such inter-municipal agreement shall provide for the following:

8 (i) provision for a buffer zone around such construction;

9 (ii) a determination if an alternative inter-municipal option is available to the community
10 other than a construction project affecting 2 or more municipalities;

11 (iii) an evaluation is completed of all viable options for cost and benefit of the proposal as
12 well as environmental benefits over the short and long-term;

13 (iv) assisting neighboring communities and neighborhoods to address infrastructure
14 needs;

15 (v) written, binding procedures for working cooperatively in joint planning for the
16 construction project;

17 (vi) consideration of the needs of nearby communities on quality of life, traffic, health
18 and environmental impact; and

19 (vii) an agreement to utilize state, regional and municipal planning agencies to serve as
20 facilitators toward inter-municipal cooperation including citizen representatives and non-elected
21 officials as participants.

22 (c) Each inter-municipal agreement shall contain the following:

23 (i) the names of each participating city and town;

24 (ii) the effective date and term of agreement;

25 (iii) the general purpose of the agreement;

26 (iv) state with specificity what costs will be shared, if any;

27 (v) state how municipalities may terminate participation;

- 28 (vi) state how the agreement may be amended;
- 29 (vii) acknowledge acceptance of liability under the agreement;
- 30 (viii) set forth specific lines of communication among participating municipalities; and
- 31 (ix) describe any applicable dispute resolution process.

32 (d) Once accepted by majority vote of each legislative body of the municipality, with the
33 approval of each chief executive officer, each municipality shall petition the general court for
34 approval of the inter-municipal agreement. Upon passage by the general court and approval by
35 the governor, the inter-municipal agreement shall be binding on the municipalities and the
36 construction project may begin pursuant to the inter-municipal agreement.