

HOUSE No.

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 advancing equity for rural communities receiving state grants.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Leigh Davis</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3102 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**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 give preference to rural

10 communities, particularly those that intend to use funds to regionalize or share services, and to
11 grant applicants that serve rural communities.

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

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