

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Joanne M. Comerford***

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*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 regional planning agencies.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Joanne M. Comerford*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester*

SENATE . . . . . No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to regional planning agencies.

*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 40B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 31. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
4 meanings:

5 “Agency”, shall mean the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Central  
6 Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments,  
7 the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission,  
8 the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, the Old Colony Planning Council, the Pioneer  
9 Valley Planning Commission and the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic  
10 Development District.

11 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, an agency that is a  
12 member of the state retirement system pursuant to chapter 32 shall be deemed to be or shall  
13 continue to be a member of the state retirement system.

14           (c) An agency shall not be required to annually reimburse the state board of retirement  
15 for its pro rata share of any retirement allowance or pension paid by said board during the  
16 preceding calendar year which is based in whole or in part on service with such district provided  
17 that each agency contributes the required accumulated deductions and interest to the annuity  
18 savings accounts of the agency.

19           (d) An agency shall not be held liable for any past due contributions before January 1,  
20 2026.