

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Paul W. Mark*

*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 an interstate compact for western MA rail service.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Paul W. Mark*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and  
Hampshire*

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

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2266 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to an interstate compact for western MA rail service.

*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. The secretary of transportation is hereby authorized and directed to develop,  
2 participate in the development of, negotiate and enter into compacts on behalf of the  
3 Commonwealth with the states of Connecticut, New York, and Vermont, or any appropriate  
4 agency or jurisdiction thereof, to implement the following purposes:

5 (a) It shall be the purpose of this compact, through means of joint and cooperative action  
6 among the compacting states to: (i) establish permanent commuter rail service between the cities  
7 of New Haven and Brattleboro including stops in Greenfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and  
8 Springfield; (ii) establish permanent commuter rail service between the cities of Worcester and  
9 Albany including stops in Pittsfield, Chester, Springfield, and Palmer; (iii) explore the extension  
10 of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Program along the Knowledge Corridor through  
11 Holyoke, Northampton, Greenfield, and Brattleboro; (iv) publicly promote permanent commuter

12 rail services connecting Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties to Albany,  
13 Boston, Brattleboro, Hartford, and New Haven, and undertake efforts to ensure the success of  
14 permanent commuter rail service in Western Massachusetts.

15 (b) It shall be the policy of the compacting states that the activities conducted by any  
16 interstate commissions created are the formation of public policies and therefore are public  
17 business. Furthermore, the compacting states shall cooperate and observe their individual and  
18 collective duties and responsibilities to ensure the success of any programs established. The  
19 provisions of this compact shall be reasonably and liberally construed to accomplish the  
20 purposes and policies of the compact.