

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

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 early voting cost reimbursements.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Rebecca L. Rausch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 437 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to early voting cost reimbursements.

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. Section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (q) the following subsection:-

3 (l) The commonwealth shall pay to each city and town an amount sufficient to defray the
4 mandated costs imposed on the city or town under the provisions of this section, including
5 additional personnel hired to staff the mandated early voting polling location, hourly municipal
6 staff working outside their normal business hours to staff the mandated early voting polling
7 location, overtime for hourly municipal staff working beyond regular hours to set up or take
8 down early voting polling locations, overtime for hourly municipal staff working beyond regular
9 hours to input data into the secretary of state’s Voter Registration Information System, the cost
10 of voting booths, and the cost of privacy screens. In every year not later than September
11 fifteenth, the state auditor shall determine and deliver to the state secretary a statement of the

12 incremental costs attributed to this section and estimated to be incurred by each city and town in
13 the next fiscal year. The state secretary shall include in his budget recommendations for such
14 fiscal year a request for an appropriation in an amount equal to such estimated costs and shall
15 distribute to each city or town its share of any such appropriated funds not more than thirty days
16 prior to the date upon which said costs shall be incurred by the city or town. Funds so distributed
17 to each city or town shall be deposited in the general fund of the city or town and shall be
18 expended without further appropriation by the city or town to meet the costs incurred by it under
19 the provisions of this act.