

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Lydia Edwards

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 providing in-district transportation funding.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Lydia Edwards

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third Suffolk

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act providing in-district transportation funding.

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. Chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following section:-

3 Section 14. The state treasurer shall annually, on or before November 20th, reimburse
4 any city, town, regional school district or independent vocational school for expenditures
5 incurred during the previous fiscal year in the transportation of pupils enrolled in special
6 education programs, in the manner hereinafter defined, provided that such transportation services
7 are required by the individual educational plan of each such pupil, that such services are not
8 normally provided to pupils enrolled in regular day program in said city, town, regional school
9 district or independent vocational school, and that the expenditures for such services are not
10 eligible for reimbursement under section 5A of this chapter. Such reimbursement shall include:
11 first, an amount for each such pupil enrolled in a special education program which is equal to the
12 average transportation services expenditure per pupil enrolled in regular day program in said
13 city, town, regional school district or independent vocational school during said fiscal year; and

14 second, the entire amount by which each of the average transportation services expenditures per
15 pupil enrolled in each special education program prototype, as defined in regulations
16 promulgated under this chapter, in said city, town, regional school district or independent
17 vocational school during said fiscal year may exceed the aforesaid average transportation
18 services expenditure per pupil enrolled in regular day program. In no instance, however, shall the
19 amount of reimbursement for such excess cost within such special education program prototype
20 exceed one hundred and ten per cent of the averages of such excess costs in all cities, towns,
21 regional school districts and independent vocational schools during the fiscal year in which such
22 expenditures were made.

23 In determining each said average transportation services expenditure per pupil enrolled in
24 regular day program in each city, town, regional school district and independent vocational
25 school, the department of elementary and secondary education shall use the transportation
26 services expenditure per pupil eligible for reimbursement under sections 7 A, 7B or 16C of
27 chapter 71, whichever is higher, during the same fiscal year. The commissioner of elementary
28 and secondary education may, by regulation, under the direction of the state board of elementary
29 and secondary education, further define the expenditures per pupil to be used in aforesaid
30 computations.

31 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, reimbursements
32 authorized under section 14 of chapter 71B of the general laws, as inserted by this act, shall be
33 made in accordance with the following funding schedule: (i) not less than 25 per cent of the total
34 eligible state obligation in fiscal year 2026; (ii) not less than 50 per cent of the total eligible state
35 obligation in fiscal year 2027; (iii) not less than 75 per cent of the total eligible state obligation in

36 fiscal year 2028; and (iv) not less than 100 per cent of the total eligible state obligation in fiscal
37 year 2029 and in subsequent fiscal years.

38 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, reimbursements
39 authorized under section 7A of chapter 71 of the general laws shall be made in accordance with
40 the following funding schedule: (i) not less than 25 per cent of the total eligible state obligation
41 in fiscal year 2026; (ii) not less than 50 per cent of the total eligible state obligation in fiscal year
42 2027; (iii) not less than 75 per cent of the total eligible state obligation in fiscal year 2028; and
43 (iv) not less than 100 per cent of the total eligible state obligation in fiscal year 2029 and in
44 subsequent fiscal years.