

By Mr. Gallagher of Boston, petition of Thomas M. Gallagher, George Bachrach, John A. Businger, James T. Brett and Susan D. Schur for legislation to establish a consumer board for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and requiring public hearings prior to changes in transportation service. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONSUMER BOARD FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AND REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS PRIOR TO CHANGES IN TRANSIT 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. Chapter 161A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 7 the following section: —

3 *Section 7A.* The consumer board of the Massachusetts Bay
4 Transportation Authority shall consist of one representative from
5 each of the seventy-nine cities and towns constituting the authority.
6 In the case of a plan D or E city, the city manager shall appoint
7 the representative from that city, the mayor of each other city shall
8 appoint the representative for that city. The chairperson of the
9 board of selectpersons of each town shall appoint that town's
10 representative. A representative shall have one vote on the consumer
11 board. The consumer board shall act by majority vote.

12 An individual appointed as a consumer board representative
13 shall own and regularly use a pass for either bus, rapid rail,
14 commuter rail, or a combination thereof. He or she shall have held
15 a pass for at least two months prior to being appointed. A representative
16 shall serve without compensation for a term of two years
17 and may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

18 The authority shall furnish the consumer board with all fare and
19 service information on a monthly basis. The consumer board shall
20 study the fare and service information at any hearing held by the

21 authority regarding fare or service changes. To the extent practica-
22 ble, the consumers board shall disseminate to the public the infor-
23 mation, as well as findings and dispositions regarding environmen-
24 tal impact reports or consumer impact reports prepared by the
25 authority.

26 The consumer board shall represent the interests of consumers
27 of authority services before

28 a) the board of directors of the authority at any hearing concern-
29 ing the interests of consumers of authority services.

30 b) the advisory board of the authority at any proceeding con-
31 cerning the interests of consumers of authority services.

32 The consumer board may incur expenses for staff, clerical work,
33 and supplies not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars. The
34 authority shall pay these expenses.

1 SECTION 2. Section 5 of chapter 161A of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by section 2 of chapter 545 of the acts of
3 1979, is hereby further amended by striking out subsection (*f* ½)
4 and inserting in place thereof the following subsection: —

5 (*f* ½) If the authority proposes a significant change in local
6 service, it shall hold an open public hearing to allow consumers of
7 public transportation to express their opinions regarding the pro-
8 posed change. For the purposes of this subsection, significant
9 changes are defined as a ten per cent or greater increase in head-
10 ways; a ten per cent or greater decrease in total daily trips; any
11 change in route layout; discontinuation of a route; or discontinua-
12 tion of off-peak, weekend, evening service on a route.

13 The authority shall publicize the date, time, and location of the
14 hearing thirty days in advance. The hearing shall take place at least
15 thirty days before the effective date of the proposed service change.
16 At least two members of the board of directors of the authority
17 shall be present at the hearing to consider the views of the public
18 concerning the proposed service change. The authority shall hold
19 the hearing in the evening at a location easily accessible by public
20 transportation. A representative of the consumer board shall pre-
21 side over the hearing and shall make known the views of the
22 consumer board regarding the proposed service change.

23 The authority shall present the reasons for the significant
24 changes at the hearing. The authority shall also describe any

25 alternative public transportation services available to users of the
26 affected route. Persons in attendance at the hearing shall have the
27 opportunity to testify on the proposed service change.

28 The authority shall take the names and addresses of persons at
29 the hearing who wish to be notified of the results of the authority's
30 reconsideration of the significant change. The authority shall noti-
31 fy each person on the list of the results in writing within thirty days
32 after the hearing.

the following is a list of the names of the persons who were members of the Board of Directors of the National Board of Health, during the year 1941-1942.

1. Dr. J. H. Henshaw, Chairman
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