

HOUSE No. 6673

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 4, 1981.

The committee on Transportation, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1591) of John G. King for legislation to require the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to give certain notice of changes in local mass transportation services; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2070) of Richard L. Walsh that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority be required to conduct a public meeting prior to any change in service; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4339) of Richard A. Voke and Lawrence R. Alexander that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority be required to conduct a public meeting prior to any significant changes in service, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6673) ought to pass.

For the committee,

STEPHEN J. KAROL.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REQUIRING THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC MEETING PRIOR TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN 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. Section 5(F $\frac{1}{2}$) of Chapter 161A of the General
2 Laws is hereby stricken and substituting in place thereof the fol-
3 lowing: —

4 The Authority shall give sixty days notice of any proposed
5 significant changes in service to the Advisory Board.

6 At least thirty days prior to the implementation of any proposed
7 significant change in service, the Authority shall conduct a public
8 meeting. For the purposes of this subsection, a significant change
9 in service shall be defined as a one hundred percent or greater
10 increase in headways, a fifty percent or greater decrease in total
11 daily trips, discontinuation of a route, or changes in the layout of a
12 route. The Authority shall provide notice to the public of a meeting
13 in conjunction with this subsection by publication in local news-
14 papers serving the area affected by any change in service at least
15 twice, with the first publication at least thirty days prior to the
16 meeting. The authority shall provide written notice of the meeting
17 ten days prior to the meeting to elected officials from the affected
18 area, the Advisory Board members of the affected municipalities,
19 any other public and private groups, organizations and persons
20 who are affected by the proposed significant change or who have
21 provided the Authority with reasonable notice of their desire to
22 participate in the public meeting. The Authority shall be represent-
23 ed at this meeting by at least one member of the Board of Directors,
24 the general manager or his designee, a representative of the service
25 planning section of the Authority who is familiar with the affected
26 route and a representative of the community affairs section.

27 The public meeting shall be conducted in the evening hours in a
28 location within one-half mile or less from any point on a route for
29 which a significant service change has been proposed. The Author-
30 ity shall present reasons for the proposed significant change and
31 shall describe any public transportation alternative services availa-
32 ble to users of the affected route. Persons in attendance at the
33 public meeting shall be provided with the opportunity to demon-
34 strate their need for the service which is proposed to be changed
35 and to make suggestions for restoration of a service or for alterna-
36 tives. Within twenty days after the public meeting the Authority
37 shall provide a written report to all persons who received written
38 notice of the meeting notifying them as to the Authority's decision
39 on the proposed change. Said report shall be written only after, and
40 shall contain analysis relative to, proper consideration of the views
41 and the comments expressed at the public meeting, and proper
42 consideration to the effect on energy conservation, and the eco-
43 nomic, environmental, and social impact of the service change.

