HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2995 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2659

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Denise Provost

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to transportation finance and equity.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	*34th Middlesex*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 2659

By Ms. Provost of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2659) of Denise Provost, Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. and Kay Khan relative to transportation financing. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *4033* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to transportation finance and equity.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 64A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out in line 70 the figure "21" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 49.

SECTION 2. The department of revenue shall develop a transportation tax credit for individual and families of moderate means.

SECTION 3. 17 per cent of new gas tax revenues shall be dedicated to the MBTA for reduction of outstanding MBTA debt resulting from the Central Artery/Tunnel project. 14 per cent shall be dedicated to the MBTA for its capital maintenance program, except that the MBTA Board may vote to dedicate a portion of these funds on an annual basis by priority to specific MBTA expenditures eligible to receive Federal matching funds.

14 per cent of new gas tax revenues shall go to chapter 90 aid. The Massachusetts highway department shall determine percentages of this revenue to distribute by region. Cities and towns will have the authority to decide how to spend these funds, within approved chapter 90 categories, provided that 1 percent of these revenues shall be spent on pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

16 4 per cent of new gas tax revenue shall be distributed among the commonwealth's 15
17 regional transit authorities according to a formula to be determined by the executive office of
18 transportation and labor and the commonwealth metropolitan planning organizations.

19 14 per cent of the new gas tax revenues shall be directed to the highway department for
20 the repair of roads, bridges and overpasses but not for new road construction under the control of
21 the department an additional 7 percent of new gas tax revenues of new gas tax revenues shall go
22 to the highway department annually for the maintenance and repair of roads, bridge and
23 overpasses under the control of the department of conservation and recreation.

24 SECTION 4. The existing tolls and discounts of the turnpike authority shall be frozen
25 until January 1, 2010. There shall be no tolls on the turnpike between the hours of 10 P.M. and 5
26 A.M. daily. Immediate application shall be made to the federal government to institute distance-
27 based tolls on I-93 north and south of Boston. The turnpike authority or any successor agency
28 having jurisdiction over the central artery and its tunnels shall forthwith develop a plan for
29 tolling. The highway department shall forthwith develop a plan for "open road" tolling on such
30 roads under its jurisdiction, as it deems appropriate and suitable for tolling. All surface
31 transportation agencies in the commonwealth shall implement similar electronic toll collection
32 systems, using available technology to collect tolls automatically. In all roadway, bridge, and
33 tunnel design and redesign projects, capacity for such technology shall henceforth be included.

34 SECTION 5. A fixed percentage of any tolls instituted on the central artery and/or its
35 tunnels shall be directed to the trust fund for maintenance of the CA/T. A fixed percentage of
36 such increased tolls shall be directed to the reduction of outstanding turnpike authority debt.

37 Any new tolls on I-93 north and south receiving federal approval shall be directed to the
38 MPOs, if from the Mass Pike and I-93, according to the annual sharing formula then in effect,
39 and to the MBTA (1/3) and the Boston MPO only (2/3) if from the tolls into Boston.

40 There shall be established a working group of heads of transportation agencies and
41 authorities of the commission, or their designees, and the secretary of administration and finance,
42 or the secretary's designee, to plan the institution of comprehensive reform of our transportation
43 system, and to institute efficiencies recommended in the March report of the transportation
44 finance commissions.

45 The commonwealth shall establish a state infrastructure bank.

46 SECTION 6. Cities and towns that accept this section may charge a tax not to exceed 10
47 per cent on all commercial parking in the city or town. All revenues from such taxes shall
48 remain within the city or town but 100 per cent shall be devoted to transportation improvements
49 and no less than 50 per cent to improvements and amenities for by cyclists and pedestrians and to
50 create bicycle/pedestrian connections around transit nodes. This section will authorize the
51 establishment of a revolving fund for such revenues.

Commercial parking for purposes of this section, shall mean privately owned parking facilities operated for a profit.