



Legislation Summary:

An Act to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth

Initial bill number(s): H3272 / S2277

Sponsors: Rep. Natalie Blais and Sen. Susan Moran

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.

The RTA Advancement bill would pave the way to greater transit equity in the Commonwealth:

- Increase the funding floor for RTAs to support the move towards 7-day a week service during critical commute hours across all 15 RTAs
- Create a dedicated fund for RTAs
- Uplift community needs through an annual RTA Council report
- Eliminate profitability as a performance metric for transit agencies

For years, inadequate state support for RTAs has exacerbated inequities in the statewide transportation system, cutting residents off from opportunity. While 55% of Massachusetts residents live within a regional transit authority service area, less than 7% of state dollars supporting transit operations go to RTAs. RTA communities should be able to count on public transportation to get to jobs, colleges, health care and grocery stores. Instead, insufficient investment in regional transit has resulted in service that is unreliable and available only some days of the week.

The League should support this bill because RTAs are a lifeline to residents in the 250+ communities outside the MBTA service area, especially people with very low incomes, older adults, and people with disabilities. As low income residents are forced to live far from city centers, and with environmental, economic, and non-driver impacts compelling people to depend on transit, we need a robust transit system both within and beyond the MBTA.

[LWVUS Impact on Issues](#), p.146:

Access to Transportation LWVUS believes that energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems should afford better access to housing and jobs and will continue to examine transportation policies in light of these goals.

[Where We Stand](#), p.58

Position in Brief Support a transportation system to move people and goods which includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education.