

HOUSE No. 3621

By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, petition of Tom Sannicandro for legislation to protect the rights of passengers on commuter rail trains. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE RIGHTS OF COMMUTER RAIL PATRONS.

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. As used in this section, the following words shall
2 have the following meaning:—
3 “Temperature regulation”— the ability of a commuter train car
4 to provide reasonable air condition or heat such that commuter
5 train passengers travel in a comfortable controlled temperature
6 environment.

1 SECTION 2. Section 5 of Chapter 161A of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2005 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after section 5(r) the following section:—

4 Section 5(s). To ensure fair treatment of commuter rail passenger,
5 the authority shall not have the power to collect fares on commuter
6 rail trains that depart 20 or more minutes after their originally sched-
7 uled departure time, or from the passenger of any car of a commuter
8 rail train that fails to provide reasonable temperature regulation.

9 Passengers of a commuter rail train with a “monthly pass” will be
10 eligible to apply for and receive a cash or check reimbursement of
11 the full cost of a one way transit ticket as designated by the authority
12 if the commuter rail train departs 20 or more minutes after its origi-
13 nally scheduled departure time, or is sitting in any car of a commuter
14 rail train that fails to provide reasonable temperature regulation.

15 To ensure transit passengers are informed of such changes in
16 commuter regulations, the authority hereby will be required to post
17 in each commuter rail car the conditions under which ticket reim-
18 bursement will occur.