

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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 bill:

An Act assisting towns to create quiet zones for at-grade rail crossings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Karen E. Spilka

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Middlesex and Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S02088 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ASSISTING TOWNS TO CREATE QUIET ZONES FOR AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSINGS.

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. The General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, are hereby amended
2 by adding the following new Chapter:

3 Chapter 161E

4 Section 1. Subject to appropriation, the Secretary of Transportation shall create a Quiet Zone
5 Assistance Grant. Any public authority eligible to apply for the creation of a “Quiet Zone” as
6 defined by the United States Secretary of Transportation under authority of 49 U.S.C. 20153 may
7 apply for a Quiet Zone Assistance Grant for financial aid for the improvements necessary to
8 create said Quiet Zone. Eligible improvements must meet the standards specified by 49 U.S.C.
9 20153 and the United States Secretary of Transportation for said Quiet Zones, and may include,
10 but are not limited to, Four-Quadrant Gate Systems, Gates with Medians or Channelization
11 Devices, One-Way Streets with Gates, Photographic enforcement, Programmed Enforcements,
12 and Public Education and Awareness programs. Any public authority may be eligible for a Quiet
13 Zone Assistance Grant up to fifty percent of the total cost to implement a new Quiet Zone.