

HOUSE No. 121

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to community broadband networks.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/16/2021</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/24/2021</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>

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By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 121) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others for legislation to establish a special commission to study and report on the feasibility of establishing community broadband networks to allow municipalities to offer their own competitive broadband internet services. Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to community broadband networks.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there is
2 hereby established a special commission to study and report on the feasibility of establishing
3 community broadband networks within the commonwealth to allow municipalities to offer their
4 own competitive broadband internet services.

5 (b) The commission shall consist of 9 members as follows: the commissioner of the
6 department of public utilities, or their designee who shall serve as chairperson; the commissioner
7 of the department of telecommunications and cable who shall serve as vice-chair; one member to
8 be appointed by the speaker of the house; one member appointed by the minority leader of the
9 house; one member to be appointed by the senate president; one member to be appointed by the
10 minority leader of the senate; and three members to be appointed by the governor, one of whom
11 shall have expertise in the field of internet service providers; one of whom shall represent rural

12 communities with limited broadband access; and one of whom with expertise in municipal
13 governance.

14 (c) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed
15 for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this
16 act.

17 (d) For the purposes of this section, a “community broadband network” shall mean a
18 local shared network within a specified community or municipality designed to offer residents
19 with network devices to gain entry to high speed internet access. A community broadband
20 network may be contracted to deliver broadband services to the community.

21 (e) The commission shall file a report of its finding along with any draft legislation
22 necessary to the house and senate clerks and shall file the same with the joint committee on
23 telecommunications, utilities and energy no later than 12 months after the passage of this act.