

HOUSE No. 3802

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brian W. Murray

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 low-cost internet service.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>

HOUSE No. 3802

By Mr. Murray of Milford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3802) of Brian W. Murray and others relative to low-cost internet service. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to low-cost internet service.

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

1 Chapter 25C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 9. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
3 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

4 “Internet service provider”, a person who provides internet access to customers in the
5 commonwealth.

6 “Qualifying senior”, a person residing in the commonwealth who is age 65 or older and
7 who has a gross annual household income less than or equal to 200 per cent of the federal
8 poverty level.

9 (b) Notwithstanding section 6A, section 8 or any other general or special law to the
10 contrary, internet service providers shall offer and provide broadband internet access to
11 qualifying seniors in the commonwealth at a discounted and affordable rate but not higher than

12 the lowest discounted rate the internet service provider otherwise offers. The internet service
13 provider may require a person seeking a discounted and affordable rate under this section to
14 provide proof that he or she is a qualifying senior.

15 (c) An internet service provider may offer and provide broadband internet access
16 pursuant to subsection (b) through any technology, including, but not limited to, digital
17 subscriber line, cable modem, wireless, satellite or fiber optics; provided, however, that the
18 bandwidth shall not be less than 10 Mbps.

19 (d) The department shall conduct outreach to make residents of the commonwealth aware
20 that internet service providers are required to provide certain qualifying seniors with a
21 discounted and affordable rate for internet access pursuant to this section.

22 (e) The department may promulgate rules or regulations as are necessary to carry out this
23 section.