

SENATE No. 2275

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)
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SENATE, Monday, May 2, 2016

The committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Oversight to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2854) of Evandro C. Carvalho and others relative to providing matching grants for funding gigabit-speed networks and for the evaluation of consumer focused municipal broadband service offerings,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2275).

For the committee,
Benjamin B. Downing

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to the Next Generation Network Initiative.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a
2 special commission to examine the state of the telecommunications and broadband infrastructure
3 in the commonwealth, including fiber-to-the-premises, cable, wireless, and landline technologies
4 with the goal of recommending a comprehensive approach to manage, maintain, improve and
5 expand the telecommunications network and ensure consumers, both residences and businesses,
6 as well as competitive local exchange carriers have access to a reliable and competitive
7 broadband network.

8 The commission shall review: (i) the status of competition and pricing for broadband
9 communications services and networks; (ii) current and future consumer expectations; (iii)
10 national and international approaches to ensuring core public interest principles and robust
11 communication capabilities are maintained; (iv) reliability, resiliency and interoperability of
12 networks in the commonwealth; (v) technology types and speeds available across the state; (vi)
13 access and underservice issues; and (vii) comparative analysis of census data across the
14 Commonwealth.

15 The commission shall consist of the following members or their designees: the
16 commissioner of the department of telecommunications and cable, who shall serve as chair; (1)
17 representative of the Massachusetts Communications Association; (1) representative of the
18 Massachusetts Broadband Institute; (1) representative of the Massachusetts Municipal
19 Association; (1) representative Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council; (1) representative
20 designated by the President of the AFL-CIO from a telecommunications union in the
21 commonwealth; and (3) member who shall be appointed by the governor, (1) of whom shall be a
22 be a senior executive from a telecommunications company; (1) of whom shall be a professor
23 with expertise in telecommunications research and policy; (1) one of whom shall be a senior
24 executive from a competitive local exchange carrier.

25 The commission shall file a report of its recommendations and proposed legislation or
26 regulatory changes, if any, with the clerk of the house and senate and with the chairs of the joint
27 committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy not later than March 1, 2017.