

HOUSE No. 637

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 providing students with technology.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/25/2021</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>3/22/2021</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>3/22/2021</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 637

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 637) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the best methods of acquiring technology for students. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to providing students with technology.

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
2 established a commission to research the best methods of acquiring technology for students. The
3 commission shall (1) identify and review the current policies in place to provide students with a
4 personal computer or tablet; (2) evaluate the effect on benefits or drawbacks to providing
5 students with a personal computer or tablet and its effects on the digital divide; (3) evaluate the
6 interest of companies to work with the Commonwealth to provide students with a personal
7 computer or tablet in lieu of selling devices back to the manufacturer; (4) evaluate how to best
8 incentivize companies to take part in a program to provide personal computers or tablets to
9 students and (5) recommend evidence based strategies that can be established to improve the
10 digital divide at a reasonable cost.

11 The commission shall consist of the secretary of education, who shall serve as the chair; a
12 representative from the executive office of technology and services; the speaker of the house of

13 representatives or a designee; the president of the senate or a designee; the house minority leader
14 or a designee; the senate minority leader or a designee; a representative from Associated
15 Industries of Massachusetts; a representative from Tech Goes Home; 6 persons who shall be
16 appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Teachers
17 Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Boston Teachers Union, 1 of whom shall
18 be a representative from Massachusetts charter schools, 1 of whom shall be a representative from
19 MassInc, 1 of whom shall have extensive experience with the digital divide, and 1 of whom shall
20 be a parent of a student in a low income district.

21 The commission shall submit a final report with its findings for providing technology to
22 students, along with any recommendations regarding how to improve the digital divide, to the
23 house and senate clerks, and the chairs of the joint committee of education, by December 31,
24 2021.