

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1861**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Barbara A. L'Italien***

*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 establishing a broadband infrastructure study commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>2/14/2017</i>

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By Ms. L'Italien, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1861) of Barbara A. L'Italien, Michael D. Brady, James B. Eldridge, Thomas M. McGee and others for legislation to establish a broadband infrastructure study commission. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing a broadband infrastructure study commission.

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

1           Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special  
2 commission to examine the state of the telecommunications and broadband infrastructure in the  
3 commonwealth, including fiber-to-the-premises, cable, wireless, and landline technologies with  
4 the goal of recommending a comprehensive approach to manage, maintain, improve and expand  
5 the telecommunications network and ensure consumers, both residences and businesses, as well  
6 as competitive local exchange carriers have access to a reliable and competitive broadband  
7 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) members who shall be appointed by the governor, (1) of whom shall be  
22 a 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 December 31, 2017.