

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2020**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Benjamin B. Downing***

*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 the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Benjamin B. Downing</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2020**

By Mr. Downing, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Benjamin B. Downing and Stephen Kulik for legislation relative to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen**

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

*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. Subsection (d) of section 6B of chapter 40J of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and  
3 inserting the following paragraph in place thereof:-

4 The corporation shall leverage private sector and federal investment by financing the  
5 construction and acquisition of broadband infrastructure to promote the development of  
6 broadband access and may undertake any other actions deemed appropriate by the corporation to  
7 promote broadband adoption and usage and expand the public benefits associated with  
8 broadband deployment in the commonwealth, particularly among vulnerable or disadvantaged  
9 populations that underutilize broadband technologies. This broadband infrastructure shall  
10 include, but not be limited to, conduit, fiber and towers. The corporation shall have the power to  
11 (i) finance or acquire equipment or other property to be owned by the corporation, the  
12 commonwealth or 1 or more other public entities, in which case such equipment or other  
13 property may be leased or licensed by the corporation, for a fee or otherwise, for use by public  
14 entities or nonprofit or for-profit private-sector entities, and (ii) make grants to one or more  
15 public entities or nonprofit or for-profit private-sector entities for the financing or acquisition of  
16 equipment or other property, subject, in all cases, to such conditions as the corporation’s board  
17 may determine to be appropriate to protect the public interest. The acquisition of an indefeasible  
18 right of use of facilities used for the transmission of intelligence by electricity or of a license or  
19 other agreement to use electromagnetic spectrum licensed by the federal government shall be  
20 considered to be the acquisition of an ownership interest in broadband infrastructure, and any  
21 such transaction shall constitute a transaction with the commonwealth for the purpose of chapter  
22 30B. Any lessee or licensee shall pay lease or license fees to the corporation, which shall credit

23 them to the fund. The corporation may provide and pay for advisory services and technical  
24 assistance and take such other actions as may be necessary or desired to carry out its purposes.