

SENATE No. 2079

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Donald F. Humason, Jr., (BY REQUEST)

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 reducing non-ionizing radiation exposure in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Kristin Beatty

SENATE No. 2079

By Mr. Humason (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2079) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Kristin Beatty for legislation to reduce non-ionizing radiation exposure in schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act reducing non-ionizing radiation exposure in schools.

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. Section 1 of chapter 69, as appearing in the Official 2014 Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

3 The board shall as a matter of policy promote the reduction of non-thermal non-ionizing
4 radiation exposures to students and staff in public schools, encouraging school districts to choose
5 paper and pen over regular use of technology to avoid potential harm. The board shall establish a
6 policy to insure school districts reduce non-ionizing non-thermal radiation exposures, including
7 harmonics, transients, and fields deriving from close contact with electricity. The board shall
8 increase staff and student education of potential harms of non-thermal non-ionizing radiation.

9 The board shall recommend elimination of wireless communications in all schools. As a matter
10 of policy and to avoid penalizing schools, the board shall consider all public school
11 accountability measures requiring use of technology as “not applicable,” refusing to accept or

12 consider such accountability measures in schools which do not use or which significantly reduce
13 use of technology.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, in the Official 2014 edition, is hereby
15 amended by adding the following section:-

16 It shall be unlawful to use public school grounds from preschool through grades twelve
17 for wireless transmissions via cellular tower antennas, routers, or other wireless devices.
18 Personal wireless devices must be placed in non-transmitting modes except in the case of
19 medical emergency or serious threat to personal safety.

20 Each school committee shall establish a policy dealing with students and staff who
21 violate this law. This policy may include, but not be limited to, mandatory education classes on
22 the hazards of non-ionizing radiation or digital addiction recovery programs.

23 Excepting individual personal transmitting devices, each school district shall remove
24 transmitting devices from school building as swiftly as practically possible, providing evidence
25 of good faith to concerned school staff, students, and the community. Districts may not refuse to
26 allow for informal measurements of non-ionizing radiation by staff or students except to restrict,
27 within reason, the disruption of learning and the distraction of students. Districts that fail to
28 provide evidence of good faith and fail to remove transmitting devices within a reasonable time
29 period shall pay a penalty twice that of removal of the device(s). Persons knowingly and
30 intentionally obstructing removal of transmitting devices may be charged with criminal offense,
31 fined, and removed from administrative duties.

32 SECTION 3. Chapter 269 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
33 following section:-

34 The use of a wireless communications device on school grounds that transmits non-
35 ionizing radiation that is known to cause harm as stated by a medical doctor or by reasonable
36 scientific evidence shall be illegal. In the event a transmitting device on school grounds is
37 deemed a health risk to an individual or group and thus requires removal, whoever, being
38 responsible for the device and being so commanded to assist in removal, refuses to obey or
39 obstructs such command may be punished by imprisonment or by a fine of not less than one
40 hundred dollars, or both.

41 SECTION 4. Section 19G of said chapter 78, as so appearing in the official 2014 Edition,
42 is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

43 The board shall use funding to encourage public libraries to reduce non-ionizing radiation
44 exposures, including from use of wireless communications and electronic technology, through
45 avoidance, redesign, and reduction of emitting technologies.