

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 146**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Paul W. Mark*

*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 a supportive technology commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>

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By Mr. Mark of Peru, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 146) of Paul W. Mark and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the general Court) relative to supportive technology that positively impacts the lives of residents with developmental disabilities at home and in our communities. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to a supportive technology 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 SECTION 1. There is hereby established a special commission to be known as the  
2 Massachusetts Supportive Technology Commission, which shall consist of three members of the  
3 Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party appointed by the minority leader,  
4 three members of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the minority  
5 party appointed by the minority leader, the commissioner of the department of developmental  
6 services, the commissioner of the department of public health, the commissioner of the  
7 department of mental health, or their designees, all of whom shall serve as ex-officio members,  
8 and ten persons to be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a representative of an  
9 organization that works with or advocates on behalf of persons with autism and related  
10 conditions, one of whom shall be from the department of developmental services with significant  
11 experience using supportive technology to provide services to people with developmental

12 disabilities, one of whom shall be a representative of an intellectual or developmental disability  
13 advocacy organization, one of whom shall be familiar with supportive technology research and  
14 represents a Massachusetts institution of higher learning, four of whom shall represent service  
15 providers who have significant experience using supportive technology to provide services to  
16 people with developmental disabilities and one each of whom shall reside or work respectively in  
17 greater Boston, southeastern or northeastern Massachusetts, central Massachusetts, and western  
18 Massachusetts, one of whom shall be the parent or guardian of a child with a developmental  
19 disability and who has significant experience with supportive technology, and one of whom shall  
20 be a person with a developmental disability who has significant experience with the use of  
21 supportive technology.

22 SECTION 2. The commission is hereby established for the purpose of making an  
23 investigation and study relative to supportive technology that positively impacts the lives of  
24 residents with developmental disabilities at home and in our communities, including but not  
25 limited to: (i) making recommendations to develop state policy to encourage the use of  
26 supportive technology; (ii) identifying and addressing areas where sufficient support is not  
27 currently available or where additional options may be needed to assist those with developmental  
28 disabilities to gain access to supportive technology; (iii) identifying best practices, effective  
29 partnerships, and opportunities for shared services among existing providers and relevant state  
30 agencies to increase supportive technology opportunities for those with developmental  
31 disabilities; (iv) recommending ways to integrate supportive technology into existing programs  
32 to move with children as they grow into adulthood, with a focus on transition-age youth; (v)  
33 developing educational materials for relevant state agencies, providers, and families about how  
34 supportive technology can have a positive impact on the independence, skills, and abilities of

35 persons with developmental disabilities; (vi) recommending system-level benchmarks for  
36 monitoring use of supportive technology and person-centered outcomes that demonstrate  
37 increased quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities. Said commission shall  
38 provide guidance and advice to the governor, the general court, the secretary of health and  
39 human services and commissioner of the department of developmental services relative to  
40 current research on supportive technology. The commission may conduct public hearings,  
41 forums, or meetings to gather information and to raise awareness of supportive technology,  
42 including the sponsorship of or participation in statewide or regional conferences. Said  
43 commission shall file an annual report at the end of each state fiscal year with the governor and  
44 the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, who shall forward the same to the  
45 appropriate joint committees along with recommendations, if any, together with drafts of  
46 legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect. The special commission may  
47 file such interim reports and recommendations as it considers appropriate.