

HOUSE No. 4493

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 5, 2020.

The committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, to whom was referred the 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, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4493) ought to pass.

For the committee,

KAY KHAN.

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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. (a) There is hereby established a special commission to be known as the
2 Massachusetts Supportive Technology Commission, which shall consist of the commissioner of
3 the department of developmental services who shall serve as chair, the commissioner of the
4 department of public health, the commissioner of the department of mental health, or their
5 designees, all of whom shall serve as ex-officio members, two members of the Senate, one of
6 whom shall be a member of the minority party appointed by the minority leader, two members of
7 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party appointed
8 by the minority leader, and ten persons to be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a
9 representative of an organization that works with or advocates on behalf of persons with
10 intellectual or developmental disabilities, one of whom shall be from the department of
11 developmental services with significant experience using supportive technology to provide
12 services to people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, one of whom shall be a
13 representative of an intellectual or developmental disability advocacy organization, one of whom
14 shall be familiar with supportive technology research and represents a Massachusetts institution

15 of higher learning, four of whom shall represent service providers who have significant
16 experience using supportive technology to provide services to people with intellectual or
17 developmental disabilities and one each of whom shall reside or work respectively in greater
18 Boston, southeastern or northeastern Massachusetts, central Massachusetts, and western
19 Massachusetts, one of whom shall be the parent or guardian of a child with an intellectual or
20 developmental disability and who has significant experience with supportive technology, and one
21 of whom shall be a person with an intellectual or developmental disability who has significant
22 experience with the use of supportive technology. Two years prior to the due date of the next
23 report, or whenever a vacancy occurs thereafter, each appointing authority shall make new
24 appointments to the commission.

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

38 impact on the independence, skills, and abilities of persons with intellectual and developmental
39 disabilities; (vi) recommending system-level benchmarks for monitoring use of supportive
40 technology and person-centered outcomes that demonstrate increased quality of life for persons
41 with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Said commission shall provide guidance and
42 advice to the governor, the general court, the secretary of health and human services and
43 commissioner of the department of developmental services relative to current research on
44 supportive technology. The commission may conduct public hearings, forums, or meetings to
45 gather information and to raise awareness of supportive technology, including the sponsorship of
46 or participation in statewide or regional conferences. Said commission shall file a report every 2
47 years, the first being filed by June 30, 2022, for 10 years, unless the legislature requires
48 otherwise, with the governor and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, who
49 shall forward the same to the house and senate committees on ways and means, and the joint
50 committee on children, families and persons with disabilities along with recommendations, if
51 any, together with drafts of legislation, regulations, or other policy changes necessary to carry
52 those recommendations into effect. The special commission may file such interim reports and
53 recommendations as it considers appropriate.

54 SECTION 2. Section 1 is hereby repealed.

55 SECTION 3. Section 2 shall take effect on June 30, 2030.