

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 72

Title: An Act relative to the oversight of cable contracts

Lead Sponsor: Rep. John Barrett III

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 166A of the General Laws regulates community antenna television systems and establishes a division of community antenna television under the department of telecommunications and cable.

Executive Summary: If an issuing authority determines that a licensee has violated a condition of their license, the matter shall be referred to the Department of Telecommunications and Cable for further review. If a settlement agreement is reached, the department shall review and approve the agreement.

Legislative History: Filed as H.3829 (2021-22) Referred to AITIC, sent to study
Filed as H. 59 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC, sent to study

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 75

Title: An Act related to the resiliency, public safety and quality of broadband in Massachusetts

Lead Sponsor: Representative Kip A. Diggs

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 25C of the General Laws establishes the Department of Telecommunications and Cable in the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

Executive Summary: Regulates the quality, reliability, and resiliency of broadband and VoIP service, including regulations regarding the standards for resiliency and reliability of broadband infrastructure, maintenance, and reporting requirements, minimum power back-up requirements, and data collection on the availability, pricing, and adoption of VoIP and broadband service.

Legislative History: Filed as H. 3780 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; reported favorably

Summary:

SECTION 1. Declares that access to high-speed internet is a necessity and essential to participation in the economy, education and civic life. Identifies key challenges as deployment gaps, affordability issues, and network quality concerns. Emphasizes that VoIP has largely replaced traditional phone service, making its reliability a public safety priority, and states that regulators need clear authority to oversee these services.

SECTION 2. Inserts Section 10

Defines "Broadband", as high-speed internet access, including wireless internet access, and as may be further defined by the department.

Defines "Internet service provider" (ISP), as any person, business or organization qualified to do business in the commonwealth that provides individuals, corporations or other entities with the ability to connect to the internet with a broadband service.

Defines "Voice over Internet Protocol" or "VoIP", as defined in section 6A of Chapter 25C.

Grants the department ultimate authority over all broadband and VoIP standards, infrastructure, and oversight in Massachusetts, superseding other conflicting laws. Authorizes the department to create rules covering infrastructure resilience standards, ISP reporting requirements (including outage reports), maintenance standards, emergency preparedness plans, minimum power backup requirements, and comprehensive data collection on service deployment and pricing.

Empowers the department to conduct evaluations and audits of ISP facilities and infrastructure based on complaints or collected data, focusing on service quality, public safety, and network resilience. Allows the department to order corrective measures from ISPs after hearings if their practices or services are found inadequate, unsafe, or fail to meet established standards. Requires the department to submit yearly progress reports to legislative committees on improvements in broadband and VoIP service quality, resilience, and public safety.

Mandates ISPs provide customers with pro rata refunds or \$10 credits (whichever is greater) for service outages lasting three minutes or longer that aren't caused by customer or third-party errors. Requires ISPs to display standardized broadband consumer labels at point of sale, containing pricing information, performance metrics, network management practices, data allowances, privacy policies, and other department-specified details. These labels must comply with federal Federal Communications Commission regulations.

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 79

Title: An Act relative to efficient access to the affordable connectivity program

Lead Sponsor: Representative Carlos González

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 25C of the General Laws establishes the Department of Telecommunications and Cable in the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

Executive Summary: Requires that an internet service provider already providing internet service to a household, who also receives benefits under the federal Affordable Connectivity Program, continue providing service to the household receiving the benefit without interruption or delay in existing service.

Legislative History: Filed as H. 65 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; sent to study

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 82

Title: An Act Relative to Cyberattack Response in Massachusetts

Lead Sponsor: Representative Bradley H. Jones Jr.

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Section 1 of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950, as amended by Chapter 54 of the Acts of 2014, establishes the Massachusetts Civil Defense Act.

Executive Summary: Inserts in Section 1 of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950, as amended by Chapter 54 of the Acts of 2014, after the definition of “civil defense” additional clarified definitions of “critical infrastructure”, “cybersecurity attack”, and “cyber system”.

Legislative History: Filed as H. 66 (2023-24), Referred to AITIC; accompanied to S. 2539

Key Definitions:

“Critical Infrastructure” shall mean the systems and assets within the commonwealth, either physical or virtual, so vital to the commonwealth or the United States that the incapacitation or destruction of such systems would have a debilitating impact on physical security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of those matters. This can include, but is not limited to: election systems, transportation infrastructure, water, gas, and electric utilities.

“Cybersecurity attack” shall mean an attack, via electronic means, targeting the commonwealth’s use of cyberspace for the purpose of disrupting, disabling, destroying, or maliciously controlling a computing environment or infrastructure; or destroying the integrity of the data or stealing controlled information.

“Cyber System” shall mean the network of hardware, software, procedures, and people put in place by companies, individuals, or governments that can connect to the Internet.

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 84

Title: An Act creating a task force to study the use of the internet by sex offenders

Lead Sponsor: Representative Bradley H. Jones Jr.

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Executive Summary: Establishes a task force under the joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to report on electronic communications and the feasibility of tracking sex offender internet use.

Legislative History: Filed as H.2152 (2013-14) Referred to Public Safety; Sent to study
Filed as H.2142 (2015-16) Referred to Public Safety; Reported favorably to Rules
Filed as H.2143 (2017-18) Referred to Public Safety; Reported favorably to Rules
Filed as H.2083 (2019-20) Referred to Public Safety; Reported favorably to Rules
Filed as H.123 (2021-22) Referred to AITIC; Reported favorably to Rules; reported favorably to HWM.
Filed as H. 67 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; Reported favorably to Rules

Summary:

Establishes a task force under the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to report on electronic communications and the feasibility of tracking sex offender internet use, via methods including but not limited to: internet protocol addresses, media access control addresses, internet service providers, electronic mail, and instant messaging.

The task force's study shall address, but not be limited to, the following areas: current laws and regulations; other states laws, regulations, and efforts; the feasibility of registration of sex offenders' online addresses; and relevant civil liberties issues.

The task force shall consist of: three members of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, two to be appointed by the chair, one to be appointed by the House Minority leader; three members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, two to be appointed by the chair, one to be appointed by the House minority leader; one member of the state police, to be appointed by the colonel of the state police; one licensed attorney, with experience in

civil rights' cases, to be appointed by the Attorney General; and four experts to be appointed by the commissioners of the Department of Public Utilities upon a majority vote, provided two of the experts have had significant knowledge of a private telecommunications company.

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 85

Title: An Act relative to determination of need of new technology

Lead Sponsor: Representative Meghan K. Kilcoyne

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Section 25B of Chapter 111 of the General Laws defines terms for Sections 25B through 25G of Chapter 111, which relate to circumstances under which the commonwealth may make substantial capital expenditures on health facility construction, among other things.

Executive Summary: Amends the definition of "New technology", to be defined as equipment such as magnetic resonance imagers and linear accelerators, as may be defined by the department, or a service, as may be defined by the department, which for reasons of quality, access or cost is determined to be new technology by the department; provided, however, that computerized tomography and any equipment that is widely utilized as standard diagnostic, treatment or therapeutic technology shall not be considered new technology.

Legislative History: New File

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 87

Title: An Act creating a pilot program to explore digital innovation in government

Lead Sponsor: Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Executive Summary: Requires the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to establish and implement a pilot program to examine the use of blockchain technology to support the storage of real property records, working with at least one county registry of deeds.

Legislative History: Filed as H. 71 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; sent to study

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 88

Title: An Act establishing a special commission on blockchain and cryptocurrency

Lead Sponsor: Representative Lipper-Garabedian

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Executive Summary: Establishes a special commission to investigate blockchain technology and to develop a master plan of recommendations for fostering the appropriate expansion of blockchain technology in the Commonwealth.

Legislative History: Filed as H.126 (2021-22) Referred to AITIC; Reported favorably to Rules; Reported favorably to HWM.

Filed as H. 69 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; Reported favorably

Summary:

The commission shall consist of 25 members: the Speaker of the House of Representatives or a designee who shall serve as co-chair; the minority leader of the House of Representatives or a designee; the President of the Senate or a designee who shall serve as co-chair; the minority leader of the Senate or a designee; four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker; four members of the Senate appointed by the President; the Attorney General or a designee; the Chair of the Cannabis Control Commission or a designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue or a designee; the Secretary of the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security or a designee; the Secretary of Public Safety and Security or a designee; three persons to be appointed by the state secretary; provided that, one shall represent an organization focused on consumer protection; and five persons to be appointed by the governor including one appointee from a financial technology company, one appointee of a company with a business model that uses blockchain technology for purposes other than digital assets and two appointees representing institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.

This commission is tasked with conducting a comprehensive examination of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency across nine areas:

- Evaluating how blockchain could be used for government records, service delivery, court proceedings, and various state registries (firearms, marijuana, opiates, election materials, and voter records), assessing both benefits and risks including privacy concerns.
- Examining whether businesses should be allowed to maintain corporate records using blockchain technology and determining necessary security requirements for accuracy.
- Reviewing the current blockchain definition in law and identifying needed modifications to support proper deployment of the technology.
- Analyzing how cryptocurrency growth affects state revenues and whether the tax framework needs restructuring, including potentially taxing cryptocurrency transactions under sales tax.
- Determining if government agencies and businesses (particularly cannabis retailers) should accept cryptocurrency payments.
- Assessing whether and how to regulate the energy consumption associated with cryptocurrency operations.
- Identifying necessary safeguards, technological literacy programs, and potential licensing requirements to protect Massachusetts residents.
- Developing best practices to ensure blockchain technology benefits all residents while addressing historical barriers that have excluded underrepresented groups from emerging technology markets.
- Determining which state agencies are best positioned to oversee blockchain technology and cryptocurrency, particularly for consumer protection purposes.

The commission also has broad authority to examine any other blockchain-related topics it deems relevant.

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 89

Title: An Act providing for consumer protection in a digital economy

Lead Sponsor: Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 10 of the General Laws establishes the Office of the State Treasurer.

Executive Summary: Asks the office of the state treasurer to develop and maintain an online module with resources for digital financial literacy/management, including resources on cryptocurrencies.

Legislative History: Filed as H.70 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; sent to study

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 91

Title: An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming

Lead Sponsor: Representative Joan Meschino, Representative Margaret R. Scarsdale

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

See Senate Filing: S. 41

Current Law: Sections 1 through 14A of Chapter 93 of the General Laws regulate competition and prohibit certain conduct undertaken in restraint of trade or commerce. Chapter 93A of the General Laws prohibit unfair and deceptive practices in trade or commerce.

Chapter 58 of the General Laws pertains to general provisions relative to taxation.

Chapter 66 pertains to public records held by the Commonwealth.

Section 53F¾ of Chapter 44 of the General Laws allow municipalities to establish PEG Access and Cable Related Funds which contain funds that may only be appropriated for certain purposes related to PEG stations or cable operator franchise agreements.

Chapter 12 of the General Laws relates to the Office of the Attorney General.

Executive Summary: Establishes a PEG Access Facilities Revenue Advisory Board. The advisory board shall meet at least once a year, collect industry data, and make a recommendation for a streaming entertainment service assessment rate. The Commissioner of Revenue will set an assessment rate equal to the advisory board's recommendation. Creates a Streaming Entertainment Fund, administered by the state treasurer consisting of revenues collected from the assessment, revenue from appropriations, interest earned on money in the fund, or any funds from private sources specifically designated to be credited to the fund.

Legislative History: Filed as H.130 (2021-22) Referred to AITIC; extended and sent to study

Filed as H. 74 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; redrafted and reported favorably

Summary:

Authorizes the Commonwealth to regulate streaming entertainment services and collect compensation for the use of the public rights-of-way.

Establishes a PEG Access Facilities Revenue Advisory Board consisting of the following members: Commissioner of the Department of Revenue or Designee (chair);

Director of Rural Affairs or designee; Commissioner of the Department of Telecommunications and Cable or designee; the president of Massachusetts Community Media, Inc. or designee; and President of the New England Connectivity and Telecommunications Association or designee.

- The advisory board shall meet at least once a year, collect industry data, and make a recommendation for a streaming entertainment service assessment rate.
- The board will file a report of its findings and recommendations by the end of the year with the House, Senate, Department of Telecommunications and Cable, and Department of Revenue.
- The Commissioner of Revenue will set an assessment rate equal to the advisory board's recommendation.

Mandates the submission of financial records from streaming entertainment operators and payment after written notice by the Department of Revenue.

Implements a penalty schedule for late submission of financial records (1% of gross revenue for 0-30 days late, 2% for 30-60 days late) or late submission of payment (2% of gross revenue for 0-30 days late, 3% for 30-60 days late).

Grants the Commonwealth permission to audit streaming service provider financial records pertaining to assessable gross revenues. Outlines the process and penalties for any underpayment.

Creates a Streaming Entertainment Fund, administered by the state treasurer consisting of revenues collected from the assessment, revenue from appropriations, interest earned on money in the fund, or any funds from private sources specifically designated to be credited to the fund.

Authorizes judicial remedy for the Attorney General or any local government to recover any unpaid assessments and monetary penalties.

SECTION 2: Allows municipalities to establish in the treasury a streaming fund supporting public, education or governmental (PEG) access media centers.

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 92

Title: An Act creating the Massachusetts digital equity broadband adoption program

Lead Sponsor: Representative Frank A. Moran

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 23A of the General Laws relates to the Department of Economic Development.

Chapter 29 of the General Laws relates to state finance and various state budgetary funds.

Section 5C of Chapter 29 of the General Fund pertains to the reversion of net surpluses in state funds.

Executive Summary: Establishes within the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development a Massachusetts Digital Equity Broadband Adoption Program to expand the availability of broadband internet connectivity by providing financial assistance to eligible residents who cannot afford any available service.

Legislative History: Filed as H.131 (2021-22) Referred to AITIC; extended and sent to study

Filed as H. 75 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; sent to study

Summary:

The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development shall establish a Massachusetts Digital Equity Broadband Adoption Program. The Office shall enter into an agreement with broadband providers to accept vouchers distributed by the Office under this section.

An individual may apply for financial assistance under this section in the manner specified by the office.

Upon receipt of an application, the Office shall determine: (1) the applicant's eligibility for financial assistance; (2) the amount of financial assistance for which the applicant is eligible; and (3) whether the applicant is eligible for a single payment or a recurring payment of financial assistance; based on the office's assessment of the applicant's need.

An applicant for financial assistance under this chapter: (1) who is receiving, or whose household includes an individual who is receiving, benefits under: (A) the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program; (B) the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); or (C) the Medicaid program; or (2) whose household includes a child who is eligible for free or reduced price lunch; is automatically eligible for financial assistance under this chapter.

If the Office determines that an individual is eligible for financial assistance under subsection, the Office shall provide financial assistance to the individual in the form of one or more vouchers, each in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50), that can be used by the individual to pay one or more of the following expenses: (i) Fees charged by a broadband provider for installation, activation, equipment purchase, WiFi extenders or other 1 time expenses of providing broadband Internet service to the individual; or (ii) monthly subscription fees charged by a broadband Internet provider for the provision of broadband Internet service to the individual, including modem and router charges. A voucher may be provided by the office in printed or electronic form.

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 95

Title: An Act relative to assuring a jumpstart in investments in telecoms to preserve access to the internet

Lead Sponsor: Representative David Allen Robertson

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 10 of the General Laws establishes the Office of the State Treasurer.

Chapter 25C of the General Laws establishes the Department of Telecommunications and Cable in the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

Executive Summary: Establishes the Municipal Broadband Development Fund. Clarifies the definitions of “broadband internet service provider”, or BISP, “data cap”, “end-user”, “municipal agency”, “net neutral”, “open access”, “paid prioritization”, and “surcharge”. Establishes a net neutrality seal and certification review process for broadband internet service providers.

Legislative History: Filed as H.4043 (2019-20); Referred to Economic Development; sent to study

Filed as H.4089 (2020-21) Referred to AITIC; sent to study

Filed as H. 78 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; sent to study

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 100

Title: An Act establishing a commission to study a statewide credentialing program for digital navigators

Lead Sponsor: Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Executive Summary: Establishes the Massachusetts Digital Navigation Commission to study and make recommendations on ways to address the inequity of digital access through the recruitment and implementation of digital navigators, trusted guides who assist community members with ongoing, individualized support for accessing affordable and appropriate connectivity, devices, and digital skills.

Legislative History: New File

Summary:

The Commission shall consist of: the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission; 1 member who shall represent the Massachusetts Broadband Institute; 1 member who shall represent the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security; 1 member who shall represent the Department of Public Health; 1 member who shall represent the Executive Office of Health and Human Services; 1 member who shall represent the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development; 1 member who shall represent the Massachusetts Office on Disability; 1 member who shall represent the Executive Office of Elder Affairs; 1 member who shall represent Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; 1 member who shall represent MassHealth; 1 member who shall represent the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities; 1 member who shall represent the Department of Transitional Assistance; 5 members who shall represent the Massachusetts Digital Navigation Network, including: 1 member who shall represent the Alliance for Digital Equity of Western Massachusetts, 1 member who shall represent the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers, 1 member who shall represent the City of Boston, 1 member who shall represent the Metro North Workforce Board and 1 member who shall represent Vinfen; 1 member who shall represent the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative; 1 member who shall represent the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition; 1 member who shall represent the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; 1 member

who shall represent the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges; and 2 members who shall be recipients of digital navigator services with 1 recommended by the Alliance for Digital Equity and 1 recommended by the Metro North Workforce Board.

The Commission shall study and make recommendations on:

- how Massachusetts residents' needs can be met by digital navigation services within the broader goal of digital equity
- the scope and social determinant of health and quality of life outcomes provided through digital navigation
- opportunities for state agencies to support the work of digital navigation to further the goals of the agencies in meeting the needs of Massachusetts residents
- methods for funding digital navigators including private and public contracting, state grantmaking, and state and federal reimbursement for services
- qualifications and standards of digital navigators, including outlining a process for a statewide credentialing program for digital navigators; and
- any other considerations determined to be relevant by the commission.

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 101

Title: An Act establishing free broadband internet access in public housing

Lead Sponsor: Representative Danillo A. Sena

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 111 of the General Laws generally regulates public health in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Section 32 of Chapter 121B relates to the maintenance and operation of a housing project by a housing authority.

Executive Summary: Requests a study be conducted on broadband internet access in the Commonwealth and its relation to the public health objectives. Requests funds to subsidize housing authorities or other public housing bodies for the implementation and maintenance of the requirement of no-charge broadband internet for all units.

Establishes that no charge broadband internet availability in all units is considered a requirement of a decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling.

Legislative History: Filed as H.137 (2021-22) Referred to AITIC; sent to study
Filed as H.81 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; sent to study

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 102

Title: An Act relative to protecting the residents of the Commonwealth

Lead Sponsor: Representative Michael J. Soter

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 7D of the Massachusetts General Laws establishes and describes the Executive Office of Technology and Security Services.

Executive Summary: Bans TikTok, WeChat, and other apps with relationships to the governments of China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Venezuela, or Cuba, from use on state government devices and networks. Authorizes the Secretary of the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security to make and execute a plan to ensure that the statute is carried out in state government. Covered entities' apps are also not allowed on municipally-owned assets. Emergency preamble makes the legislation take effect immediately upon passage.

Legislative History: Filed as H. 82 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; accompanied S. 2539

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 105

Title: An Act relative to electronic security for the Commonwealth

Lead Sponsor: Representative Marcus S. Vaughn

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 30B of the General Laws regulates procurement in the Commonwealth.

Executive Summary: Requires that all contracts, subcontracts, or procurements of over \$500,000 made by the Commonwealth shall not purchase or use any electronic or cyber security equipment or component parts produced by entities based in China, including equipment components used in rail cars and electronic and cyber security equipment components used in wind farms, in compliance to the Commerce Control List promulgated by the Federal Bureau of Industry and Security. Requires that such entities that own or use any cyber security equipment or component parts produced by entities based in China, to develop a plan to replace them with components that were produced by an entity not based in China.

Legislative History: Filed as H. 84 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; accompanied S. 2539

**Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and
Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

Bill Number: H. 106

Title: An Act to modernize funding for community media programming

Lead Sponsor: David T. Vieira

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Current Law: Sections 1 through 14A of Chapter 93 of the General Laws regulate competition and prohibit certain conduct undertaken in restraint of trade or commerce. Chapter 93A of the General Laws prohibit unfair and deceptive practices in trade or commerce.

Chapter 58 of the General Laws pertains to general provisions relative to taxation.

Chapter 66 pertains to public records held by the Commonwealth.

Section 53F¾ of Chapter 44 of the General Laws allow municipalities to establish PEG Access and Cable Related Funds which contain funds that may only be appropriated for certain purposes related to PEG stations or cable operator franchise agreements.

Chapter 12 of the General Laws relates to the Office of the Attorney General.

Executive Summary: Establishes a comprehensive statewide policy concerning compensation for the use of public digital infrastructure. Imposes a 5% tax on gross receipts of streaming service providers on the revenue they bring in in Massachusetts, with revenue divided between the PEG fund, PEG channels, and the general fund.

Legislative History: New File

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 107

Title: Resolve establishing a special commission to review advancements in educational technology, digital/online learning and related programs

Lead Sponsor: Representative Thomas P. Walsh

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

Executive Summary: Creates a 9-member special commission to review advancements in educational technology, and to assess the feasibility of state, local, and private educational systems adopting, implementing, or integrating improved technology to enhance the educational experience for students and educational professionals and reduce costs for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Legislative History: Filed as H.144/S.62 (2021-22) Referred to AITIC; sent to study
Filed as H. 86 (2023-24) Referred to AITIC; sent to study

Summary:

The Commission shall consist of 9 members as follows: the Secretary of Technology Services and Security, the chairman of the Board of Higher Education, the chair of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, or their designee(s) and 6 members appointed by the Governor: one of whom shall represent either University of Massachusetts online or Mass Colleges online, one of whom shall be from the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts, two of whom shall be representatives of digital learning technology and content companies, two of whom shall be a representatives of U.S.-based, large technology companies with a significant component in educational technology who have a business presence in the Commonwealth.

Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

Bill Number: H. 4229

Title: An Act protecting children from addictive social media feeds

Lead Sponsor: Representative William F. MacGregor

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Report Date: September 8, 2025

See Senate Filing: S. 30

Executive Summary: Prohibits operators from providing algorithmic content recommendations to users under 18 unless they can verify the user is an adult through commercially reasonable methods. Bans social media platforms from sending notifications to minors between midnight and 6 AM. The Massachusetts Attorney General is tasked with developing regulations that specify acceptable age verification methods, including at least one option that doesn't require government ID or compromises user anonymity. Violations can result in civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation. Allows Attorney General rulemaking.

Legislative History: New File

Summary:

Defines "Addictive feed" as a personalized content delivery system that recommends, selects, or prioritizes media based on user data or device information. Unless any of the following conditions are met, alone or in combination with one another:

- Content based on non-persistent information
- User-selected privacy/accessibility settings
- Explicitly requested content or subscriptions
- Direct private communications
- Search results
- Sequential content from the same creator
- Content necessary for legal compliance

Defines "Addictive social media platform" a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, that offers or provides users an addictive feed as a significant part of the services provided by such website, online service, online application, or mobile application.

"Covered minor" A user under 18 when the operator has actual knowledge of their age

"Covered user" Any user in Massachusetts who isn't operating or affiliated with the platform

"Minor" Anyone under 18 years old

"Covered operator": Any person or entity that operates or provides an addictive social media platform

Section 2.

It shall be unlawful for a covered operator to provide an addictive feed to a covered user unless the covered operator has used commercially reasonable and technically feasible methods to determine that the covered user is not a covered minor.

It shall be unlawful for a covered operator to, between the hours of 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. in the commonwealth's time zone, send notifications to a covered user unless the covered operator has used commercially reasonable and technically feasible methods to determine that the covered user is not a covered minor.

Section 3.

This section tasks the Massachusetts Attorney General with creating implementation guidelines:

(a) The AG must create regulations defining "commercially reasonable and technically feasible" age verification methods.

(b) The AG must consider various factors when creating these regulations:

- Platform size, resources, and technical capabilities
- Cost and effectiveness of age verification techniques
- Platform audience and industry practices
- Impact on user safety, utility, and experience

(c) Regulations must specify accuracy levels and provide multiple verification options, including at least one method that either:

- Doesn't rely solely on government-issued ID, OR
- Allows users to remain anonymous to the platform

(d) Creates a "safe harbor" provision: if operators follow the regulations and don't determine someone is a minor, they can presume the user is an adult unless they gain actual knowledge otherwise.

(e) Data Protection: Information collected for age verification can only be used for that purpose and must be deleted immediately after verification, except when required by other laws.

Section 4.

Operators cannot punish users by withholding, degrading, or charging more for products/services simply because they're not allowed to provide addictive feeds to that user.

Section 5.

The law does not contradict federal COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) requirements.

Section 6.

The Attorney General can impose civil penalties up to \$5,000 per violation

The AG must create a public website for receiving complaints about platform compliance.

Section 7.

Grants the Attorney General broad authority to create rules and regulations needed to implement and enforce the law.