

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act Relative to Studying Electronic Methods to Make Municipalities More Cost Effective .

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Karen E. Spilka

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Middlesex and Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO STUDYING ELECTRONIC METHODS TO MAKE MUNICIPALITIES MORE COST EFFECTIVE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special commission
- 2 to examine electronic methods available to municipalities to make their communications and
- 3 services for citizens more efficient and cost effective. The commission shall file a report with
- 4 recommendations of best practices for municipalities and recommendations for legislation. The
- 5 commission shall examine the technical, legal and financial feasibility of permitting
- 6 municipalities to, among other considerations, use ebills or online billing to replace paper billing
- 7 of citizens, to use electronic notice alternatives to legal notice postings in newspapers, to publish
- 8 annual reports electronically, to use electronic storage to satisfy public records requirements, and
- 9 to use electronic notice and reporting with state agencies.
- 10 The commission shall be chaired by the chairs of the house and senate joint committee on
- 11 municipalities and regional government.

12 The governor, speaker of the house, and president of the senate shall each appoint 2 members to
13 the commission. The minority leader in the house and the minority leader in the senate shall
14 each appoint 1 member to the commission. Other members of the commission shall include the
15 chief information officer of the commonwealth or her designee, the commissioner of the
16 department of revenue or her designee, the secretary of state or his designee, a representative of
17 the Massachusetts Municipal Association, a representative of the Mass Technology Leadership
18 Council, and the chief elected official of 1 city and 1 town.

19 The commission shall file a report with the senate and house clerk's office no later than one year
20 after the effective date of this act.