

HOUSE No. 587

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Aaron Vega, (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 public school nonionizing radiation and wireless exposures.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Kristin Beatty

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

HOUSE No. 587

By Mr. Vega of Holyoke (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 587) of Kristin Beatty relative to reducing exposures to non-ionizing radiation stemming from wireless connectivity and electricity in public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act reducing public school nonionizing radiation and wireless exposures.

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. Chapter 71 of Part I Title XII of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding a new section:-

3 SECTION 1D. WIRELESS AND NONIONIZING RADIATION EXPOSURES

4 Section 1D. Every public school providing computer access to students and staff shall,
5 where possible, turn off wireless connectivity and hard-wire any connections to the Internet. If
6 hard-wiring is not feasible and yet internet connectivity is necessary for staff, ideally a
7 segregated area of the school shall be set aside for internet use by the staff and turned off when
8 not in use. If access is necessary for student education, a segregated area is also best to control
9 exposures and turn off wireless connectivity when not in use. Ideally, wireless use by staff shall
10 occur after regular hours when students have left the school, until a hard-wired connection can be
11 obtained.

12 Every public school shall have a policy to limit exposures to non-ionizing radiation
13 stemming from wireless connectivity and from electricity. This policy shall insure that schools
14 not only reduce or eliminate wireless exposures, but check the electrical and magnetic fields
15 emitted by electricity use during a regular school day and provide for correction of high field
16 exposures.

17 The policy and any standards or rules enforcing the policy shall be provided by the
18 school committee or charter school board, and shall be subject to development and review by a
19 local committee inclusive of and not exclusive of student guardians, parents, and teachers
20 belonging to the school or district.

21 SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 69 of Part I Title XII of the General Laws is hereby
22 amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place the following sentence:-

23 It is therefore the intent of this title to ensure that each public school classroom provides:
24 (1) the conditions for all pupils to engage fully in learning as an inherently meaningful and
25 enjoyable activity without threats to their sense of security or self-esteem; (2) a consistent
26 commitment of resources sufficient to provide a high quality public education to every child; (3)
27 a respectful process for attending to student academic needs and developing talents; (4) an
28 effective mechanism for supporting positive school climates and teacher quality and
29 professionalism; and (5) insuring the environmental health and safety of public school
30 classrooms by allowing for policies and procedures designed to improve and monitor
31 environmental health of public school buildings.