

By Ms. Kaprielian of Watertown, petition of Rachel Kaprielian for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the development of the "information superhighway". Commerce and Labor.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY".

1     *Resolved*, There is hereby established a special commission to  
2 consist of eleven members, for the purpose of conducting an investi-  
3 gation and establishing a coordinated strategy for Massachusetts  
4 state government with regard to the proposed nationwide network of  
5 high-speed voice, video, and data linkages known as the  
6 "Information Superhighway."

7     Said investigation shall include, but not be limited to, an appraisal  
8 of the current Massachusetts data and information infrastructure, pri-  
9 vate and public; of the public, private, and non-profit sector research  
10 being conducted either in the commonwealth or elsewhere that  
11 would tend to benefit the construction and expansion of said infor-  
12 mation superhighway; of current governmental practices within the  
13 information and networking technology areas; of Massachusetts'  
14 readiness to link into said nationwide network; of the implications  
15 such a network might have on existing and potential Massachusetts  
16 business in fields such as health care, finance, and services; and any  
17 potential invasions of personal privacy arising from enhanced infor-  
18 mation transfers. Said strategy shall recommend state policies and  
19 otherwise situate the state to receive early federal investment, build  
20 on the existing data and information infrastructure of the common-  
21 wealth, and encourage growth in the information and networking  
22 technologies. The commission shall consider whether changes are  
23 desirable in the present laws, regulations, and practices governing  
24 said technologies, so as to enhance expansion of their use, invest-  
25 ment, and employment.

26 Said special commission shall consist of eleven persons, seven of  
27 whom shall be appointed by the governor and shall include directors,  
28 officers, employees of or persons affiliated with businesses, quasi-  
29 public corporations, or institutions of higher education involved in  
30 the research, development, manufacture or production of informa-  
31 tion transfer and networking technologies, including, but not limited  
32 to, persons with experience, skill, and knowledge in telecommunica-  
33 tions, cable and broadcast television, computer networking hardware  
34 and software, supercomputer research and development, high defini-  
35 tion television and video technologies. The director of the civil liber-  
36 ties union of Massachusetts or his designee shall serve. The senate  
37 chair of the joint committee on science and technology and the  
38 house chair of the joint committee on science and technology, or  
39 their designees, shall also serve. The secretary of economic affairs or  
40 his designee shall serve ex officio and act as chair.

41 Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled by the appropriate  
42 appointing or designating authority. Such vacancy shall not affect  
43 the powers and duties of the commission. A quorum of seven mem-  
44 bers shall be necessary to conduct the business of the commission  
45 A majority vote of the commission shall mean a majority of the  
46 members authorized to serve.

47 The members of the commission shall serve unless otherwise pro-  
48 vided herein without compensation but shall receive their necessary  
49 expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

50 The commission may employ an executive director, legal counsel  
51 and such other assistance as it may deem necessary, subject to appro-  
52 priation; provided that, the secretary of economic affairs and other  
53 members of the commission shall provide staff support to the com-  
54 mission as necessary and appropriate. The commission may accept  
55 and expend any appropriations, grants of money, professional serv-  
56 ices, consultant services, clerical or other services and supplies pro-  
57 vided by the commonwealth or other governmental or  
58 non-governmental entities in the course of its inquiry.

59 The commission shall work in close collaboration with appro-  
60 priate state agencies and authorities, and may request cooperation  
61 and reasonable assistance from said offices and all other offices and  
62 agencies of the commonwealth within the executive, legislative and  
63 judicial branches. Said offices and agencies shall furnish the com-  
64 mission with any relevant information in their possession which is  
65 requested by the commission.

66 The commission may conduct hearings, perform research, and  
67 compile and publish reports. The commission shall establish rules of  
68 procedure governing the conduct of its hearings which shall be  
69 made available in printed form. All hearings of the commission  
70 shall be public.

71 The commission shall file its final report and its recommenda-  
72 tions, if any, together with any drafts of legislation necessary to  
73 carry its recommendations into effect, by filing same with the clerks  
74 of the house of representatives and the senate not later than the first  
75 Wednesday in November of nineteen hundred and ninety-four.

76 All appointments required under the provisions of this act shall  
77 be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this act.

