

SUMMARY ~ August 27, 2026

Initiative Petition for a Law Relative to Safer Technology per Non-Ionizing Radiation

- (a) **Research & Recommendations.** This proposed Massachusetts law creates a new, independent state agency called the Office of Research and Technology Optimization (ORTO) that conducts research and makes recommendations based on the 'As Safe As Reasonable and Achievable' (ASARAA) standard, applying this standard to aspects relevant to public interests, such as but not limited to cybersecurity, privacy, public and environmental health.
- (b) **Tech Application.** The new agency, ORTO, is to apply this ASARAA standard to non-ionizing radiation from technology. This non-ionizing radiation is emitted by technology such as for light, wireless communications, and by electrical lines, including but not limited to computers, cell towers, and power lines.
- (c) **Independence.** The agency has several leaders, including an administrative head, legal chief, head scientist, and a financial manager. Core initial staff include a scientific editor; legal and policy editor; and a chief engineer. To help the agency remain independent, leaders are appointed by different state officials and are vetted by a special panel of non-profit experts without conflicts of interest. Leaders and staff must not only comply with state conflict of interest rules, but also submit more detailed conflict of interest reports and may not accept any money during employment from relevant industries, take jobs two years post-work from relevant industries, and appointed leadership may not have worked for or received money from relevant industries in the past five years.
- (d) **Core Programs and Services.** Operating under a remote-first model, the agency is tasked with providing transparency and data across several main areas, such as:
- (1) **Study Public Impacts:** Research how non-ionizing radiation may affect the public, such as but not limited to employment, public health, personal property, energy usage, and civil liberties.
 - (2) **Public Education and Policy:** Develop recommendations and best practices for technology use, including non-use, and sharing recommendations with the public and government.
 - (3) **Open-Access Publishing:** Manage an open-access, independent journal that publishes policy analysis, legal analysis, and peer-reviewed research on non-ionizing radiation free for the public.
 - (4) **Exposure Mapping:** Collect field data to build an open-access public digital map showing non-ionizing radiation levels across the state side by side with anonymous health statistics.
 - (5) **Voluntary Field Assessments:** Offer fee-based non-ionizing radiation testing to municipalities wishing to evaluate emissions from local cell towers, power lines, and buildings.
 - (6) **Local Legal Choice:** Provide free model ordinances to communities, while offering a separate, paid service to assist towns with site-specific drafting recommendations.
 - (7) **Legal Testimony:** Provide relevant legal evidence & testimony, such as field measurements of cell towers or other equipment, and providing relevant legal education.
 - (8) **Trust Fund:** Any collected funds enter a trust fund to support tools & equipment needs, additional expertise, honorariums, & grants, but may never be used for salary increases or bonuses.
- (e) **Local Autonomy and Fiscal Protections.** ORTO is an advisory agency that provides facts, advice, and policy for government entities and the public to make their own technology procurement decisions. In addition to standard state appropriations, the agency's operations may be funded by federal research grants, commercial patent licensing fees, service fees, donations, and court costs recovered from providing evidence in successful technology lawsuits.