

BARNSTABLE COUNTY
In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 20-05

Whereas, An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth^{1,2}, or Information Technology (IT) Bond Bill was recently signed by Governor Baker.

Whereas, Barnstable County has insufficient internet and cell service connectivity and bandwidth, and the COVID 19 pandemic brings with it an urgency to address these issues for people of all ages in Barnstable County.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates Resolves: To call upon Governor Charles Baker, by delivering a copy of this resolution and a letter authorized by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates and signed by the Assembly Speaker via certified mail and email, to ask that in his role as chief safety officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he release the funds designated in the IT Bond Bill for Barnstable County projects.

A copy of this resolution and letter to Governor Baker shall also be delivered to the Massachusetts Lt. Governor, the Governor's Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff, both State Senators and all State Representatives for Barnstable County.

Submitted by Wellfleet Delegate Lilli-Ann Green (and co-sponsored by Brewster Delegate Mary Chaffee, Provincetown Delegate Brian O'Malley, Chatham Delegate Randi Potash and Barnstable Delegate Patrick Princi) at a regular meeting of the Assembly of Delegates held on September 2, 2020.

Governor Charles Baker
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

[Date]

Dear Governor Baker,

We, the members of the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, representing the 15 towns of Barnstable County wish to thank you for recently signing the Information Technology Bond Bill. The bill which was championed by Representative Sarah Peake and Senator Julian Cyr and includes funds which are sorely needed in Barnstable County due to insufficient internet and cell service connectivity. The COVID 19 pandemic brings with it an urgency to address these issues for people of all ages and in all sectors of our county including:

- a. Students from pre-school children to college age and adult learners
- b. People working from home
- c. Telemedicine visits when in-person medical visits are not advised
- d. Emergency services
- e. Elderly and those with vulnerable medical conditions who are isolating at home
- f. The ability of local government to meet and function

The bill includes:

- a. \$400,000 for the Cape Cod Commission to conduct a regional study of internet access for residential and commercial properties on the Cape, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and to identify the most significant gaps in cellphone signal coverage in the region
- b. Funding of not less than \$100,000 for Cape Cod Community College to equip students in need with technology necessary to participate in remote learning³
- c. \$1.7M in funds allocated for OpenCape Internet connectivity projects on the Cape & Islands, which will support the following planned projects:
 1. Main Street Fiber Internet Initiatives in Provincetown and Chatham
 2. Strategic extensions of the OpenCape fiber backbone in Wellfleet, Truro and Eastham
 3. Enhanced fiber outreach in Falmouth.
 4. Fiber expansion strategic planning for Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket^{4,5}

As the Assembly of Delegates, we ask that you release the funds to support Barnstable County which are allocated in the IT Bond Bill. We thank you Governor for considering this serious matter and for communicating with us as to your results.

Sincerely,

Suzanne McAuliffe, Speaker
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/h4932-signed-parchment/download>

² <https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-baker-signs-18-billion-bond-bill-to-improve-information-technology-public-safety-and>

³ <https://www.capecodtimes.com/news/20200706/political-notes-bill-includes-provisions-for-tech-funding-in-region>

⁴ <https://opencape.org/uploads/newsPDF/Advocate-Today.pdf>

⁵ <https://wellfleet.wickedlocal.com/news/20200830/opencape-wants-citizens-to-call-gov-baker-to-release-funds?template=ampart>