



**DATE:** April 17, 2018

**TO:** House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

**FROM:** Kevin Callahan  
Director, State Government Affairs  
CompTIA

**RE:            **Comments on Proposed Study – S. 180****

---

Chair Botzow and members of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee, my name is Kevin Callahan, and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Computing Technology Industry Association (“CompTIA”). I appreciate the opportunity to share our comments on the study proposed by S. 180.

Earlier this session, CompTIA testified before the Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee in opposition to S. 180 as introduced. We commented on the complexity of the issues raised by the bill that extends far beyond the stated intent to provide access to parts, tools, technical manuals, and software to a broad range of electronic products. We were concerned with the potential for troubling, unintended consequences, including serious cybersecurity, privacy and safety risks, if S. 180 as introduced were to be enacted.

While we recognize the desire to further study this issue, we believe additional amendments to the bill are necessary. The findings section of the bill makes several biased and inaccurate claims regarding the repair of electronic products. These claims would be studied by the proposed Commission and should not be taken as “findings” of the General Assembly.

Additionally, the current study language in S. 180 fails to address several key concerns expressed by numerous witnesses in the Senate, including representatives of a coalition representing a broad spectrum of businesses involved in consumer electronics, home appliances, HVACR, security equipment, medical devices, toys, lithium ion batteries, and other connected electronic products. This includes concerns raised over federal copyright laws and other federal laws impacting intellectual property, privacy and security.

If the Legislature is to proceed with the bill, it is critical that additional amendments be made to clarify that the proposed Commission will study the issues regarding the repair of electronic products as opposed to simply creating a vehicle for legislation to be drafted. Some suggested amendments to the study language were provided to the Committee last week for your consideration.

## **CompTIA**

Comments on Proposed Study – S. 180

April 17, 2018

Page | 2

It is important to note that, while 18 other states have filed legislation on this issue, no state has passed anything. With respect to studying this issue, the Massachusetts Legislature is considering a proposal to examine the issues of electronics repair and the impact on consumers and businesses. This language was also provided to the Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to share our comments on the proposed study. We are committed to working with the Legislature to promote digital privacy and security, while resisting unwarranted state intervention in the marketplace with one-size-fits-all mandates that compromise consumer safety and protection. CompTIA and our members would be happy to serve as a resource to the Committee as you further consider this legislation.

### ***About CompTIA***

*CompTIA is a non-profit trade association representing the information technology industry. With over 2000 member technology companies, 3000 academic and training partners, and more than two million IT certifications issued, CompTIA is dedicated to advancing industry growth through educational programs, market research, networking events, professional certifications and public policy advocacy. For more information, please visit [comptia.org](http://comptia.org).*