HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/12/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**John J. Binienda**

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*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the sale of prepaid cell phones.

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PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| John J. Binienda | 17th Worcester |
| Christine E. Canavan | 10th Plymouth |
| Lori Ehrlich | 8th Essex |
| John P. Fresolo | 16th Worcester |
| Louis L. Kafka | 8th Norfolk |
| Allen J. McCarthy | 7th Plymouth |
| Elizabeth Poirier | 14th Bristol |
| Geraldine Creedon | 11th Plymouth |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3277 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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An Act relative to the sale of prepaid cell phones.

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

 SECTION 1. Chapter 269 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after 14A the following section:

Section 14B. (a) A person who makes a retail sale of a prepaid cell phone shall, as a precondition to the sale, obtain and photograph or photocopy one or more identification documents identifying the purchaser by name and address. The seller shall for each retail sale make and keep for a period of at least 2 years:

1. a record of the serial number and manufacturer of the phone sold;

2. the phone number assigned to cell phone

3. an associated record of the service supplier who will supply service to the phone;

4. an associated record of the identification obtained from the purchaser; and

5. an associated record of the date and manner in which the information required under items numbered 1-4 in this subsection (a) was transmitted as required in subsection (b) which follows;

(b) All persons making retail sales of prepaid cell phones shall, not less frequently than monthly, transmit the records of each such sale required under subsection (a) to the service supplier supplying service to the phone as well as the attorney general.

(c) All service suppliers shall maintain the records supplied to them under this section for a period of at least 2 years.

1. Any person who violates any provision of subsections (a) through (c)

shall be subject to a civil fine of $50 per offense. Each separate transaction for which required records are not generated or maintained shall constitute a separate offense.

1. Any person purchasing a prepaid cell phone shall not purchase any more than 3 handsets in a 24 hour period. A violation of this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50 nor more than $200 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months.

(f) The attorney general shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to enforce this section.