

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 regulating the leasing of telephone equipment. .

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

14th Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3355 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT REGULATING THE LEASING OF TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT. .

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 166 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 official edition, is hereby amended by
2 adding after section 44 the following section: -
3
4 Section 45. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, a company that leases
5 telephonic equipment must distinguish on its statements to the customer the monthly amount due for leasing the
6 equipment and the monthly amount due for servicing the equipment.
7
8 When a customer's cumulative payments for the leased equipment equal or exceed the fair market value of the
9 telephonic equipment, the leasing company must immediately offer to transfer ownership to the customer at no
10 additional cost, except for a reasonable finance charge. Customers may choose to continue to lease, but must
11 indicate their desire to do so in writing on a document provided by the leasing company. Upon the failure of the
12 customer to affirmatively choose to continue leasing the equipment, the leasing company shall transfer ownership to
13 the customer.
14
15 Companies must clearly present, on each monthly statement, the cumulative cost of the lease agreement over the
16 entire lease period.
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