

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Benjamin Swan

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 telephone service for inmates in all correctional and other penal institutions in the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Benjamin Swan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

11th Hampden

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1738 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
—————

AN ACT RELATIVE TO TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR INMATES IN ALL CORRECTIONAL AND
OTHER PENAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

*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. Section 87 of Chapter 127 of Massachusetts General Laws is hereby
2 amended to include “correspondence of, and telephone service for inmates”. The following subsections are hereby
3 added:—
4 (a) The cost of local and long distance telephone service provided to prisoners in department of correction
5 facilities and county houses of correction shall be the same as the rates charged for comparable residential telephone
6 service.
7 (b) The department of correction and county houses of correction shall negotiate contracts for local and long
8 distance telephone service on the basis of offering the lowest cost to users.
9 (c) The commonwealth, the department of correction, and the county houses of correction shall not accept
10 commissions or revenues, nor receive any telephone services for their employees at below market rate cost from the
11 provider(s) of prisoner telephone service.
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