

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Walter F. Tilty

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 prohibiting deceptive billing practices by cellular telephone service providers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Walter F. Tilty	7th Norfolk
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3382 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

**AN ACT PROHIBITING DECEPTIVE BILLING PRACTICES BY CELLULAR TELEPHONE
SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

*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 12(d) of Chapter 159 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 the words “telegraph line”, the following: “means of cellular telephone services”.

3

4 Section 12 of Chapter 159 is hereby amended by inserting after section 12(d) of said Chapter
5 the following:

6

7 (e) The department shall have jurisdiction over all wireless service providers doing business
8 within the commonwealth. Said department shall draft and promulgate regulations providing
9 guidelines for billing practices to be established for said wireless service providers, including but

- 10 not limited to (1) consumers are entitled to an itemized bill at no cost to the consumer; (2)
- 11 design a bill in which government mandated taxes and provider surcharges appear separately;
- 12 (3)label the separate columns “Government Fees and Taxes” and Provider Surcharges; (4)
- 13 include a brief explanation of each line item surcharge for both government and private line
- 14 item surcharges; and, (5) include all charges for a billing cycle on a single bill.