

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ms. Flanagan

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 to Promote Utility System Reliability.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Ms. Flanagan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester and Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO PROMOTE UTILITY SYSTEM RELIABILITY.

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

1 No later than January 1, 2010, each distribution, electric and gas company, all as defined in
2 section one of chapter one-hundred and sixty four of the General Laws, shall employ adequate numbers
3 of employees to perform routine inspections, preventive maintenance work, and, in the case of an
4 electric or distribution company, tree trimming. Each company shall additionally designate dedicated
5 preventive staff or crews who, on a daily basis, are involved in routine inspections of key system
6 components and are available to promptly perform any preventive maintenance identified as necessary
7 through the inspections.

8 A company shall not be deemed to be in compliance with these requirements unless it employs at least
9 as many employees for such inspection, preventive maintenance and tree-trimming functions as were
10 employed in January 1997.

11 Any company may file a request with the Department of Public Utilities for a waiver from these
12 requirements, which may be granted only for good cause shown, including a demonstration that the
13 company can perform the same level of inspection, maintenance and tree-trimming as it did in 1997,
14 with fewer employees. Upon the filing of any such request, the Department shall provide public notice
15 of the filing and an opportunity for interested parties to be heard.

16 Any person who believes that a company is not in full compliance with the requirements of this law may
17 bring a petition before the Department seeking enforcement of these requirements, and the
18 Department shall promptly investigate any such petition, providing public notice and an opportunity for
19 interested parties to be heard.