

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00113**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Elizabeth Poirier*

*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 intentional misrepresentation by a business of its location.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Elizabeth Poirier*

*14th Bristol*

*George Ross*

*2nd Bristol*

*Steven L. Levy*

*4th Middlesex*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00113

By Ms. Elizabeth Poirier of North Attleborough, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00113) of George Ross and others for legislation to prohibit businesses from misrepresenting the geographic location of such businesses in local telephone directories.. Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 3107 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act prohibiting intentional misrepresentation by a business of its location.

*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 93 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
2 section:—Section 114. (a) It is hereby declared to be an unfair and deceptive act or practice in  
3 violation of chapter 93A for any provider or vendor of a product or service to misrepresent the  
4 geographic location of its business by doing either of the following:(1) listing a local telephone  
5 number in a local telephone directory listing or advertisement if each of the following is  
6 satisfied:(i) calls to the telephone number are routinely forwarded or otherwise transferred to a  
7 provider’s or vendor’s business location that is outside the calling area covered by the local  
8 telephone directory.(ii) the listing does not identify the true physical address, including the city

9 and state, of the provider's or vendor's business.(2) listing a fictitious business name or an  
10 assumed business name in a local telephone directory listing or advertisement if each of the  
11 following is satisfied:(i) the name misrepresents the provider's or vendor's geographic  
12 location.(ii) the listing does not identify the true physical address, including the city and state, of  
13 the provider's or vendors business.(b) for purposes of this section the following terms shall have  
14 the following meanings:"Local telephone directory", a telephone classified advertising directory  
15 or the business section of a telephone directory that is distributed free of charge to some or all  
16 telephone subscribers in a local area directory."Local telephone number", a telephone number  
17 that has a three-number prefix used by a telephone service company for telephones physically  
18 located within the area covered by the local telephone directory in which the number is listed.  
19 The term shall not include long distance numbers or 800- or 900- exchange numbers listed in a  
20 local telephone directory.