

HOUSE No. 1752

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:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Benjamin Swan	11th Hampden
Gloria L. Fox	7th Suffolk
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE HOUSE, NO. 1738 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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