

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1768**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*David M. Nangle*

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act further regulating cable television systems.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*David M. Nangle*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*17th Middlesex*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1768**

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By Mr. Nangle of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1768) of David M. Nangle relative to payments for cable services. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3310 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act further regulating cable television systems.

*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 5 of chapter 166A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following 2 paragraphs:-

3           (p) Neither it nor the operator shall require payment in advance from any subscriber but a  
4 cable subscriber may voluntarily offer and a licensee or operator may accept advance payments  
5 for service.

6           (q) It, and any operator, shall itemize all rates and charges to subscribers. Payment of  
7 bills are due no sooner than 15 days from mailing, which shall be a date certain and in no case a  
8 statement that the bill is due upon receipt. A subscriber account shall not be considered  
9 delinquent unless payment has not been received by the licensee or operator at least 30 days after  
10 the bill due date. The licensee or operator shall not impose a late charge on a subscriber unless a

11 subscriber is delinquent, the licensee or operator has given the subscriber a written late charge  
12 notice in a clear and conspicuous manner and the subscriber has been given at least 8 business  
13 days from the date of delinquency to pay the balance due. No late charge may be assessed on the  
14 amount of a bill in dispute. A licensee or operator shall provide subscribers with a written  
15 statement of account for each billing period and a final bill at the time of disconnection.