

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1778

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Walter F. Timilty*

*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 prohibiting deceptive billing practices by cellular telephone service providers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/20/2011</i>

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By Mr. Timilty of Milton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1778) of Walter F. Timilty prohibiting deceptive practices by providers of cellular telephone services. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3130 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven  
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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           Section 12 of Chapter 159 is hereby amended by inserting after section 12(d) of said  
4           Chapter the following:

5           (e) The department shall have jurisdiction over all wireless service providers doing  
6           business within the commonwealth. Said department shall draft and promulgate regulations  
7           providing guidelines for billing practices to be established for said wireless service providers,  
8           including but not limited to (1) consumers are entitled to an itemized bill at no cost to the  
9           consumer; (2) design a bill in which government mandated taxes and provider surcharges appear  
10          separately; (3) label the separate columns “Government Fees and Taxes” and Provider

- 11     Surcharges; (4) include a brief explanation of each line item surcharge for both government and
- 12     private line item surcharges; and, (5) include all charges for a billing cycle on a single bill.