

SENATE No. 1578

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Benjamin B. Downing

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 relative to service quality standards.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Benjamin B. Downing</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>

SENATE No. 1578

By Mr. Downing, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1578) of Benjamin B. Downing and William Smitty Pignatelli for legislation relative to service quality standards for telephone and telegraph companies. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1657 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to service quality standards.

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 166 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 44 the following section:-

3 Section 45. The department is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to
4 establish and require performance based rates for each telephone and telegraph company
5 organized and doing business in the Commonwealth and subject to the jurisdiction of the
6 department. In promulgating such performance based rate schemes, the department shall
7 establish service quality standards for telephone and telegraph transmission, including, but not
8 limited to, standards for customer satisfaction, service outages, facility upgrades, repairs and
9 maintenance, customer service, billing service, proposed capital projects, amount actually spent
10 on capital projects, employee staffing levels, and public safety provided, however, that such
11 service quality standards shall include benchmarks for employee staff levels and employee
12 training programs for each company.

13 Each telephone and telegraph company shall file a report with the department by March
14 first of each year comparing its performance during the previous calendar year to the
15 department’s service quality standards and any applicable national standards as may be adopted
16 by the department. The department shall be authorized to levy a penalty against any telephone

17 and telegraph company which fails to meet the service quality standards in an amount up to and
18 including the equivalent of 4 per cent of such company's revenues for the previous calendar year.