HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1170 FILED ON: 1/14/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 772

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chris Walsh

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 underground infrastructure.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*
Carmine L. Gentile	*13th Middlesex*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 772

By Mr. Walsh of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 772) of Chris Walsh, Carmine L. Gentile and Denise Provost for legislation to direct the Department of Public Utilities to promulgate rules and regulations relative to the development of underground utility infrastructure. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *2989* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act relative to underground infrastructure.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 164 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 71 the following section:-

Section 71A. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations in relation to the development of utility infrastructure systems that shield such infrastructure from transmission or distribution interruptions or failures including but not limited to storm damage, vandalism, security breaches, maintenance neglect, or system overload due to inadequate design capacity limits. The department shall make it a priority to create incentives for unobtrusive, hardened, shielded, underground electrical utility transmission and distribution systems wherever physically feasible. The department is required to promulgate rules and regulations in relation to

10 the development of infrastructure upgrade plans and hold public hearings once every 2 years to

11 review the status, accuracy and technical feasibility of such plans.

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