

HOUSE No. 1740

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James J. Dwyer

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 the use of business telephone numbers in the underground economy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2017</i>

HOUSE No. 1740

By Mr. Dwyer of Woburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1740) of James J. Dwyer for legislation to authorize the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to establish a program to require persons providing telephone services to verify the commercial nature of the service and to regulate the installation of multiple lines. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3306 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the use of business telephone numbers in the underground economy.

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

1 Chapter 166 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 45. (a) The department of telecommunications and cable shall establish a
3 program that shall require any person providing telephone services in the commonwealth,
4 whether by wire or wireless, to verify the commercial nature of any customer or user of the
5 telephone service which requests a phone line, phone number, or other comparable service that is
6 in any way designated as a commercial or business-related line or number. The program shall be
7 established in accordance with the requirements of this section.

8 (b) A customer or user's commercial nature may be verified through any of the following
9 documents:- (1) articles of incorporation; (2) proof of existence as a limited liability company;
10 (3) a business license; (4) a tax document; (5) an insurance policy; or (6) a permit or other
11 registration from a municipality.

12 (c) Where a customer or user of a telephone service requests multiple lines or numbers to
13 be designated as commercial or business-related, that customer shall demonstrate the authenticity
14 of the need for multiple lines by showing that, at a minimum:

15 (1) Each line or number directs the caller to a particularly identified party;

16 (2) Each party is legally authorized to use the name by which it is identified and such
17 name is the same one used in the party's local municipality;

18 (3) The use of multiple lines or numbers is not redundant, confusing misleading, or
19 deceptive; and

20 (4) The line or number does not solely advertise a customer's products, services, prices or
21 similar characteristics through an audio recording.

22 (d) The department of telecommunications and cable shall promulgate regulations to
23 implement the requirements of this section.