

HOUSE No. 1780

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 to ensure safe maintenance of utility poles and wires.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Leonard Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>	
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	

HOUSE No. 1780

By Mr. Walsh of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1780) of Chris Walsh and others for legislation to ensure safe maintenance of utility poles and wires. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to ensure safe maintenance of utility poles and wires.

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 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting the following sections 34C and 34D:

3 Section 34C: Municipal participation in notification system

4 For any municipality where utility companies participate in any program to coordinate
5 the removal, replacement or installation of utility poles and wires, said municipality shall have
6 unrestricted access to view the utility records and information for the entire municipality.

7 Section 34D: Reporting changes in service; securing wires

8 Any wire that is disconnected from a residential or business service location, and which
9 remains attached to a utility pole, shall be reported by a utility undertaking such a change, no less
10 than 14 days following the date of such action, to any notification system of which the utility is a
11 participant. Said wire must be permanently secured such that no portion of said wire is less than

12 fifteen feet from the base of the pole, and provided further, that the utility which disconnects said
13 wire from a customer location is responsible for its maintenance, until such time as it is
14 disconnected from the utility pole, or attached to a residential or business service location.