

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1335**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Mark C. Montigny***

*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 preserve family ties and inmate visitation.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>7/31/2017</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1335**

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By Mr. Montigny, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1335) of Mark C. Montigny for legislation to preserve family ties and inmate visitation. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to preserve family ties and inmate visitation.

*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 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 36C. Any correctional or penal institution in the commonwealth that elects to use  
3 video or other types of electronic devices for inmate visitations shall also provide inmates with  
4 in-person visitation. Any correctional or penal institution in the commonwealth may charge a fee  
5 for video or other types of electronic communication for inmate visitation, provided that the fee  
6 does not exceed the operating cost of the visitation. Any fees collected in excess of operating  
7 costs shall be allocated to the Victim’s Trust Fund as defined in Chapter 258C.

8 All correctional and penal institutions in the commonwealth shall provide eligible  
9 inmates at least one opportunity for visitation in a seven day period.

10 Facilities shall have until January 1, 2020 to comply with this section. Any facility that  
11 does not comply with these requirements by this date is prohibited from charging any fee for  
12 video or other types of electronic communication for visitation.