

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1976**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Adam G. Hinds*

*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 municipal authority in public rights of way.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1976**

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1976) of Adam G. Hinds and Michael O. Moore relative to public utilities that operate in public rights of way. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2701 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to municipal authority in public rights of way.

*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. Section 34B of chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following:-

3           In the event that a utility company does not move a utility pole, wire or attachment within  
4 the required 90 days or the agreed upon timeframe, municipalities may move, relocate or remove  
5 utility poles, wires or attachments, or arrange for another party to move, relocate or remove  
6 utility poles, wires and attachments. Municipalities may charge the utility company a reasonable  
7 fee for non-performance.

8           Municipalities may adopt bylaws and ordinances relating to (a) the imposition of fees or  
9 fines on utility companies that operate in the public right of way, (b) the assessment of taxes on

10 utility companies that operate in the public right of way, (c) the licensing and permitting of  
11 utility companies that operate in the public right of way.

12 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, municipalities  
13 and public utilities shall have the right to purchase utility poles from investor-owned utilities at a  
14 price that takes into account the depreciation in value of the utility poles.