

HOUSE No. 1738

By Mr. Swan of Springfield, petition of Benjamin Swan and others relative to telephone service for inmates in correctional institutions in the Commonwealth. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Benjamin Swan	Willie Mae Allen
Gloria L. Fox	Ruth B. Balsler
Elizabeth A. Malia	William N. Brownsberger
Kay Khan	Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR INMATES IN ALL CORRECTIONAL AND OTHER PENAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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 87 of Chapter 127 of Massachusetts General Laws is
- 2 hereby amended to include “correspondence of, and telephone
- 3 service for inmates”. The following subsections are hereby added:—
- 4 (a) The cost of local and long distance telephone service provided
- 5 to prisoners in department of correction facilities and county houses
- 6 of correction shall be the same as the rates charged for comparable
- 7 residential telephone service.
- 8 (b) The department of correction and county houses of correction
- 9 shall negotiate contracts for local and long distance telephone
- 10 service on the basis of offering the lowest cost to users.
- 11 (c) The commonwealth, the department of correction, and the
- 12 county houses of correction shall not accept commissions or
- 13 revenues, nor receive any telephone services for their employees at
- 14 below market rate cost from the provider(s) of prisoner telephone
- 15 service.