

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1740**

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**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:

*James J. Dwyer*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*30th Middlesex*

**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**

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**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.