

HOUSE No. 02624

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act regulating the leasing of telephone equipment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

14th Norfolk

HOUSE No. 02624

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2624) of Peisch relative to regulating the leasing of telephone equipment Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 3105 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act regulating the leasing of telephone equipment.

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 166 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 official edition, is
- 2 hereby amended by adding after section 44 the following section:-
- 3 Section 45. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, a
- 4 company that leases telephonic equipment must distinguish on its statements to the customer the
- 5 monthly amount due for leasing the equipment and the monthly amount due for servicing the
- 6 equipment.
- 7 When a customer's cumulative payments for the leased equipment equal or exceed the fair
- 8 market value of the telephonic equipment, the leasing company must immediately offer to

9 transfer ownership to the customer at no additional cost, except for a reasonable finance charge.

10 Customers may choose to continue to lease, but must indicate their desire to do so in writing on a
11 document provided by the leasing company. Upon the failure of the customer to affirmatively
12 choose to continue leasing the equipment, the leasing company shall transfer ownership to the
13 customer.

14 Companies must clearly present, on each monthly statement, the cumulative cost of the lease
15 agreement over the entire lease period.