

HOUSE No. 2911

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carlo Basile

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 relative to relocation of utilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Carlo Basile

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Suffolk

HOUSE No. 2911

By Mr. Basile of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2911) of Carlo Basile relative to costs associated with the relocation of public utility pipes, mains, poles, wires, conduits or fixtures. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to relocation of utilities.

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 39 of Chapter 166 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out Section 39 and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:-

4 §39 Temporary removal of wires and supporting fixtures.

5 (a) Whenever, in order to move a building or for any other necessary purpose, a person
6 desires that the pipes, mains, poles, wires, conduits or fixtures of a public utility be cut,
7 disconnected, or removed, the person which desires the cutting, disconnection, or removal of
8 pipes, mains, poles, wires, conduits or fixtures of a public utility shall give written notification
9 thereof to the department of telecommunications and energy and the utility company no later
10 than thirty days prior to the proposal date of the move. The written notification must contain the
11 location of the site where the structure is presently located, the location of the final destination of
12 the structure, the path of the proposed move, described in reference to the crossings of streets or
13 highways, and the date of the required cutting, disconnection or removal.

14 The public utility shall not be responsible for any more than five thousand dollars in costs
15 associated with the cutting, disconnecting, or removing of the pipes, mains, poles, wires,
16 conduits, or fixtures, unless the department of telecommunication and energy, after notice and a
17 public hearing considers the following factors and so orders. The factors to be considered are:

18 (1) Whether the building to be moved is to be used as affordable housing for low and
19 moderate income persons;

20 (2) The replacement value of the building once moved and rehabilitated;

21 (3) The historic value of the building;

22 (4) The fiscal cost of the building, move and rehabilitation;

23 (5) The public expense involved in the move, including utility costs, state and city labor
24 costs including police and any other public funds or expense required to move and rehabilitate
25 the building;

26 (6) The potential damage to roads, trees or buildings; and

27 (7) The disruption of utility service and street use and the expense to others who are
28 inconvenienced by the loss of utility services and/or use of roads or buildings.

29 (b) If the person which desires the cutting, disconnection, or removal of pipes, mains,
30 poles, wires, conduits, or fixtures requests a public hearing, it shall be held no later than twenty-
31 one (21) days prior to the proposed move. Notice of the proposal and the hearing shall be placed
32 primarily in at least ten (10) locations in each mile on the proposed route and shall be mailed to
33 the chief executive officer of every city or town on the route, and each city or town council
34 person whose district includes any portion of the route. In addition, the department of
35 telecommunications and energy shall provide such other notice as required by law and that is
36 usually given for public hearings of the department of telecommunications and energy. The cost
37 of the notices required by this section shall be paid by the applicant.

38 (c) If after hearing, and considering each of the factors above, the department of
39 telecommunications and energy finds that the public benefit, including the factors set out in
40 subsections (1), (2), and (3) above substantially outweighs the fiscal cost, public expense,
41 potential damage and disruption set out in subsections (4), (5), (6) and (7) above. The department
42 of telecommunications and energy may order that all or part of the utility costs shall be at the
43 utilities' expense and issue such further orders as may be necessary to facilitate the move. In no
44 event shall the department of telecommunications and energy approve any more where the
45 combined cost to the affected utilities exceeds twenty-five thousand dollars.