

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 825**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Carlos Gonzalez*

*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 telephone service for inmates in all correctional and other penal institutions in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>
<i>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 825**

By Mr. Gonzalez of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 825) of Carlos Gonzalez and others relative to telephone service for inmates in correctional institutions. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1614 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 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 1. Section 87 of Chapter 127 of Massachusetts General Laws is hereby  
2 amended to include “correspondence of, and telephone service for inmates”. The following  
3 subsections are hereby added:—

4 The cost of local and long distance telephone service provided to prisoners in department  
5 of correction facilities and county houses of correction shall be the same as the rates charged for  
6 comparable residential telephone service.

7 (b) The department of correction and county houses of correction shall negotiate  
8 contracts for local and long distance telephone service on the basis of offering the lowest cost to

9 users. (c) The commonwealth, the department of correction, and the county houses of

- 10 correction shall not accept commissions or revenues, nor receive any telephone services for their
- 11 employees at below market rate cost from the provider(s) of prisoner telephone service.