

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 966**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Chynah Tyler*

*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>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Juana Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>
<i>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 966**

---

By Ms. Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 966) of Chynah Tyler 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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.