## **SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 200**

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan L. Moran

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 to protect consumers in cable contracts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:DISTRICT/ADDRESS:Susan L. MoranPlymouth and Barnstable

## **SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 200**

By Ms. Moran, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 200) of Susan L. Moran for legislation to protect consumers in cable contracts. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

## The Commonwealth of Alassachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court (2023-2024)

An Act to protect consumers in cable contracts.

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 25C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting, after
- 2 section 9, the following section:-
- 3 Section 10. Cable Teaser Rates
- 4 For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following definition:
- 5 "Teaser rate", a rate of customer payment for cable television services offered to
- 6 customers or potential customers in the commonwealth by a cable television provider as part of a
- 7 special offer, that will subsequently increase after a certain amount of time.
- 8 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 623(1)(1) of the Federal Communications Act,
- 9 section 543 of title 47 of the United States Code of Regulations, any order from the Federal
- 10 Communications Commission, or any general or special laws to the contrary, the department of

- telecommunications and cable shall ensure that section 6.00 of Title 207 of the Code of
- 12 Massachusetts Regulations includes the following provisions:

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- 13 A cable television provider shall not offer or charge a teaser rate, as defined by [MGL], to 14 a customer for less than 12 consecutive months before the rate increases;
  - A cable television provider shall send written and electronic notice to any customer receiving cable television services for a teaser rate 60 days and 30 days before first billing deadline after the teaser rate increases; and
  - A cable television provider shall not impose any penalties, monetary or otherwise, on a customer paying for cable television services under a teaser rate, for cancelling their subscription before the teaser rate increases.