

By Mr. MacLean, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 344) of William Q. MacLean, Jr., for legislation to authorize the Department of Public Utilities to allow a rate or charge for directory assistance to certain customers. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Eight.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE RATE OR CHARGE FOR DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE SERVICE.

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 159 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 19A, as amended by Chapter 210,
3 Acts of 1986, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 Section 19A. The department may approve a rate, fare, toll or
6 charge for directory assistance service pursuant to schedules filed
7 with the department; provided, however, that for each business
8 or residence line and for each private branch exchange trunk line
9 to which a customer subscribes, said customer shall be entitled
10 to receive an allowance of ten direct dialed directory assistance
11 calls per month. The department shall determine an appropriate
12 reduced monthly direct dialed directory assistance call allowance
13 applicable to each Centrex line to which a business customer
14 subscribes to provide a monthly call allowance equivalent to the
15 allowance provided to each private branch exchange trunk line.
16 Upon approval of a rate, fare, toll or charge for directory
17 assistance service for residential subscribers, the department shall
18 reduce monthly rates for residential service by a certain percentage
19 of the revenues realized from the approval of a rate, fare, toll or
20 charge for directory assistance service for residential subscribers.
21 Customers who are certified as handicapped persons pursuant to

22 regulations promulgated by the department shall be allowed an
23 unlimited number of directory assistance calls without charge, and
24 subject to such other terms and conditions as the department finds
25 reasonable; provided, however, that no rate, fare, toll or charge
26 for directory assistance service may be charged to users of coin
27 operated telephones. The department may approve a rate, fare,
28 toll or charge for directory assistance service to other common
29 carriers as defined in paragraph (d) of section twelve for such
30 directory assistance service as provided for herein; provided,
31 however, that upon approval of such rate, fare, toll or charge for
32 directory assistance service the department shall adopt rules and
33 regulations which will provide that a certain percentage of the
34 money received by the imposition of such rate, fare, toll or charge
35 shall be set aside annually and subsequently used to reduce or
36 adjust the regular business and residential rates and the
37 department shall promulgate schedules setting forth such
38 percentages. For the purposes of this section, directory assistance
39 service or directory assistance call shall mean information given
40 to a customer of a telecommunications company to provide such
41 customer with a telephone number. Each customer will be entitled
42 without charge to one directory covering any area within the
43 commonwealth.

1 SECTION 2. The first sentence of section 19 of said Chapter
2 159 is hereby amended by deleting the words "residential
3 customers or".