

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1701

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By Mr. Keating, a petition of William R. Keating for legislation relative to computer viruses. Criminal Justice.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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### AN ACT RELATIVE TO COMPUTER VIRUS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any  
2 person who knowingly releases a computer virus that destroys or  
3 modifies data shall be guilty of computer larceny and if the data  
4 is destroyed completely shall be punished by imprisonment in the  
5 state prison for not more than ten years or by a fine of not more  
6 than twenty-five thousand dollars and imprisonment in jail for  
7 not more than two years; or if the data is only modified shall be  
8 punished by imprisonment in jail for not more than one year or  
9 by a fine of not more than seven hundred and fifty dollars.

10 Any person who knowingly releases a computer virus that does  
11 not destroy or modify the data but does interfere with the user's  
12 ability to use the computer shall be guilty of computer breaking  
13 and entering and shall be punished by a fine of not more than  
14 five hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one  
15 year, or both.

