

HOUSE No. 6333

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 26, 1982.

The committee on Government Regulations, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5405) of John P. Burke and William A. Carey relative to the tampering with electric or gas meters by the persons, firm or corporation receiving service therefrom, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6333) ought to pass.

For the committee,

RICHARD L. WALSH.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CIVIL PENALTIES IN RELATION TO THEFT OF
ELECTRICITY OR GAS.

*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 164 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after Section 127 the following section: —
3 *Section 127A.* Whoever unlawfully and intentionally injures or
4 destroys, or suffers to be injured or destroyed, any meter, pipe,
5 conduit, wire, line, pole, lamp or other apparatus belonging to a
6 corporation or municipal lighting plant engaged in the manufac-
7 ture or sale of electricity or gas to any person, or unlawfully and
8 intentionally prevents an electric or gas meter from duly registering
9 the quantity of electricity or gas supplied, or in any way interferes
10 with its proper action or just registration, or, without the consent
11 of such corporation, municipal lighting plant or person, unlawfully
12 and intentionally diverts or suffers to be diverted any electric
13 current from any wire or gas from any pipe of such corporation,
14 municipal lighting plant, or person, or otherwise unlawfully and
15 intentionally uses or causes to be used, without the consent of such
16 corporation, municipal lighting plant, or person, any electricity or
17 gas manufactured or distributed by such corporation, municipal
18 lighting plant, or charged to such person shall be liable to such
19 corporation, municipal lighting plant or person for triple the
20 amount of damages sustained thereby or one thousand dollars
21 whichever is greater. Damages shall include, but not limited to, the
22 value of the electricity or gas used and the cost of equipment repair
23 and replacement.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 260 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended in Section 5A by adding after the words: — “Chapter
3 140C,” the following words, “Section 100 and 27A of Chapter
4 164.”