

By Mr. Rohan of Holyoke, petition of Robert J. Rohan, William A. Carey, Alfred A. Minahan, Jr., Kenneth M. Lemanski and John P. Burke relative to the tampering with electric or gas meters by the person, firm, or corporation receiving service therefrom. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REGARDING THE TAMPERING WITH ELECTRIC OR GAS METERS BY THE PERSONS, FIRM, OR CORPORATION RECEIVING SERVICE THEREFROM.

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 126 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by Section 1 of Chapter 191 of the Acts
3 of 1977, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

4 The existence of any of the conditions with reference to meters or
5 attachments described in this section is presumptive evidence that
6 the person, firm or corporation to whom electricity is at the time
7 being furnished by or through such meters or attachments has,
8 with intent to defraud, created or caused to be created with refer-
9 ence to such meters or attachments, the condition so existing;
10 provided, however that the presumption shall not apply to any
11 person so furnished with electricity for less than 31 days or until
12 there has been at least one meter reading.

1 SECTION 2. Section 127 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by Section 2 of chapter 191 of the Acts of
3 1977, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

4 The existence of any of the conditions with reference to meters or
5 attachments described in this section is presumptive evidence that
6 the person, firm or corporation to whom electricity is at the time
7 being furnished by or through such meters or attachments has,

8 with intent to defraud, created or caused to be created with refer-
 9 ence to such meters or attachments, the conditions so existing
 10 provided, however, that the presumption shall not apply to any
 11 person so furnished with electricity for less than thirty-one days or
 12 until there has been at least one meter reading.