

By Mr. Clancy, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 341) of Edward J. Clancy, Jr., for legislation to ensure appropriate funding for certain telecommunications programs within the Commonwealth. Government Regulations.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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

1 Chapter one hundred and fifty-nine, Section nineteen A, is  
2 hereby repealed and replaced with a new Section 19A:—

3 Section 19A. The department may approve a rate, fare, toll, or  
4 charge for directory assistance service pursuant to schedules filed  
5 with the department; provided, however, that for each business or  
6 residence line and for each private branch exchange trunk line to  
7 which a customer subscribes, said customer shall be entitled to  
8 receive an allowance of three direct dialed directory assistance  
9 calls per month; provided, further, that as of the date of enact-  
10 ment, directory assistance calls for telephone numbers which are  
11 non-listed, or non-listed and non-published shall not be included  
12 in the three call allowance; and provided further, there shall be no  
13 rate, fare, toll, or charge for said calls. The department shall deter-  
14 mine an appropriate reduced monthly direct dialed directory assis-  
15 tance call allowance applicable to each Centrex line to which a  
16 business customer subscribes to provide a monthly call allowance  
17 equivalent to the allowance provided to each private branch  
18 exchange trunk line. Customers who are certified handicapped or  
19 elderly pursuant to regulations promulgated by the department  
20 shall be allowed an unlimited number of directory assistance calls  
21 without charge, and subject to such other terms and conditions as  
22 the department finds reasonable; provided, however, that no rate,  
23 fare, toll, or charge for directory assistance service may be  
24 charged to users of coin operated telephones. The department may

25 approve a rate, fare, toll, or charge for directory assistance service  
26 to other common carriers as defined in paragraph (d) of section  
27 twelve for such directory services provided for herein.

28 For the purposes of this section, “directory assistance service”  
29 or “directory assistance call” shall mean information given to a  
30 customer of a telecommunications company to provide such cus-  
31 tomer with a telephone number for another customer within  
32 Massachusetts. Telecommunications companies that provide a  
33 service which gives customers information about telephone num-  
34 bers within another state shall not be required to file a schedule  
35 with the department to offer such service, and the department shall  
36 have no authority to review or approve the offering of such  
37 service. Each customer will be entitled without charge to a direc-  
38 tory for each area within the Commonwealth.