

By Ms. Creem (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1796) of Dain Oliver for legislation relative to gas meter readings, Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO GAS METER READINGS.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the  
2 contrary, Section 119A of Chapter 164 of the General Laws of  
3 Massachusetts, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is  
4 hereby amended by adding, after the first sentence, the following:  
5 "Billing of customers shall be based on actual readings. An esti-  
6 mate may only be used in an extraordinary situation where gas  
7 meters are inaccessible or unable to be read."

1 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the  
2 contrary, The Department shall have the right to promulgate rules  
3 regarding actual meter readings or clarifying instances in which  
4 estimates may be used.

1 SECTION 3. The Department shall establish a suitable punish-  
2 ment for each violation.

1 SECTION 4. This section shall take effect on June 1, 2005 and  
2 shall have no effect on services provided or bills levied prior to  
3 June 1, 2005.

