HOUSE No. 5981

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 9, 1977.

The committee on Government Regulations, to whom was referred so much of the message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the Governor's Management Task Force (House. No. 5608) as relates to transferring the inspection of gas and gas meters from the Department of Public Utilities to the Department of Public Safety (App. J); to whom was recommitted the Bill relative to the mandatory licensing of electricians (House, No. 5710); to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 336) of Michael LoPresti, Jr., for legislation to authorize cities and towns to award cable television contracts without approval of the CATV Commission; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 337) of Michael LoPresti, Jr., for legislation to authorize cities and towns to award contracts for cable television without the approval of the mayor; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 350) of George Rogers and Robert Dussault for legislation to require a telephone company to notify by telephone when the company is shutting off service; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 363) of Victor E. Rosenlund, William H. Daly, Jr., and William J. Birmingham for legislation to abolish the Community Antenna Television Commission; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 435) of John A. Businger relative to rebates or refunds in the form of credits to customers of common carriers rendering unsafe, improper or inadequate service; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1024) of Paul E. Means for legislation to prohibit telephone companies from requiring residential customers to make security deposits; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1208) of Vincent J. Piro relative to the billing practices of cable antenna television companies; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1388) of Thomas F. Brownell and Robert A. Cerasoli that provision be made for "lifeline" telephone rates for residents of the Commonwealth sixty years of age or over; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1390) of the

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Mass. PIRG. Richard P. Roche and other members of the General Court relative to establishing a residential utility consumer action group; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1795) of Charles F. Flaherty, Jr., relative to notification of public hearings by telephone companies; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2190) of Bruce E. Wetherbee and Raymond A. Jordan, Jr., relative to regulating the termination of telephone service and the payment of security deposits therefor; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2193) of Bruce E. Wetherbee that telephone companies be prohibited from discontinuing service to individuals without a district court hearing; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2367) of Thomas G. Simons and other members of the House that the Department of Public Utilities be directed to regulate certain practices. policies and services to telephone companies; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2368) of James E. Smith, Paul E. Means and Anthony Michael Gallugi relative to rebates or refunds in the form of credits to customers of common carriers rendering unsafe, improper or inadequate service; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2541) of Ronald A. Pina for the creation of a non-profit organization to be known as the residential utility consumer action group; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2769) of William Q. MacLean, Jr., relative to establishing a board of auctioneers and providing for the licensing and regulation of auctioneers and apprentice auctioneers; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3110) of Robert B. Ambler, J. Michael Ruane, Raymond J. Boffetti and Arthur M. Khoury relative to regulating the number of racing days to be awarded by the State Racing Commission; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3321) of Brian J. Donnelly, Richard E. Kendall and another relative to regulating the termination of telephone service and the payment of security deposits therefor; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3524) of Brian J. Donnelly relative to rebates or refunds in the form of credits to customers of common carriers rendering unsafe, improper or inadequate service; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4432) of Theodore J. Aleixo, Jr., relative to establishing rules and regulations concerning the termination of service by telephone companies; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5171) of Richard J. Dwinell that public utility companies be required to assume the cost of providing health insurance to certain widows and minor children of deceased employees; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5463) of William G. Robinson for legislation to prohibit certain utility companies from terminating residential service during winter months; report recommending that the accompanying order (House, No. 5981) ought to be adopted.

For the committee,

ROBERT B. AMBLER.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Seven.

Ordered. That the Committee on Government Regulations be authorized to sit during the recess of the General Court for the purpose of making an investigation and study of the subject matter of current numbered: 336, authorizing cities documents towns to award cable television contracts without the approval of the CATV Commission; 337, authorizing cities and towns to awar cable television contracts without the approval of the mayor; 350, requiring a telephone company to notify by telephone when the company is shutting off service; 363, abolishing the Community Antenna Television Commission; and current house documents numbered 435, relative to rebates or refunds in the form of credits to customers of common carriers rendering unsafe, improper or inadequate service; 1024, prohibiting telephone companies from requiring residential customers to make security deposits; 1208, relative to the billing practice of cable antenna television companies; 1388, provision be made for "lifeline" telephone rates for residents of the commonwealth sixty years of age or over; 1390, establishing a residential utility consumer action group; 1795, relative to notification of public hearings by telephone companies; 2190, relative to regulating the termination of telephone service and the payment of security deposits; 2193, prohibiting telephone companies from discontinuing service to individuals without a district court hearing; 2367, directing the DPU to regulate certain practices, policies and services of telephone companies; 2368, relative to rebates or refunds in the form of credits to customers of common carriers rendering unsafe, improper or inadequate service; 2541, for the creation of a non-profit organization to be known as the residential utility consumer action group; 2769, establishing a board of auctioneers and providing for the licensing and regulation of auctioneers and apprentice auctioneers; 3110, regulating the number of racing days to be awarded by the Sta Racing Commission; 3321, regulating the termination of telepho. service and the payment of security deposits; 3524, relative to rebates or refunds in the form of credits to customers of common carriers rendering unsafe, improper or inadequate service; 4432, establishing rules and regulations concerning the termination of service by telephone companies; 5171, requiring utility companies to assume the

cost of providing health insurance to certain widows and minor children of deceased employees; 5463; prohibiting certain utility companies from terminating residential service during winter months; 5608 Appendix J, transferring the inspection of gas and gas meters from the Department of Public Utilities to the Department of Public Safety; 5710, mandatory licensing of electricians.

Said committee shall be provided with quarters in the state house or elsewhere, may hold public hearings, may travel wihtin the Commonwealth, and may expend for clerical and other services and expenses such sums as may be appropriated therefor. Said committee shall report to the General Court the results of its investigation and study, and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives on or before the first Wednesday of January, nineteen hundred and seventy-eight.



