SENATE DOCKET, NO. 921 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 1699

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James T. Welch

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act promoting transparency in electric bills.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James T. Welch	☐ *[District]* ☐
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 1699

By Mr. Welch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1699) of James T. Welch and Jennifer E. Benson for legislation to promote transparency in electric bills. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act promoting transparency in electric bills.

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be entitled the "The Ratepayer Protection Act", and shall be construed in a manner to achieve its public purpose, which is to ensure that affordable electric service be available to all consumers on reasonable terms and conditions.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, each calender year, the department of public utilities shall conduct a public hearing to evaluate the economic consequences to the consumers of the costs assessed on residential and commercial ratepayers to meet the renewable portfolio standards of the Commonwealth, including the Commonwealth's expenditures for administration and enforcement of all renewable energy programs, incentives, and funding available in the Commonwealth. The department of public utilities shall develop and issue, by Marsh first of each year, a report which shall detail the amount in the previous calendar year of wholesale and retail pricing, that is directly attributable to the Commonwealth's renewable portfolio standard requirements. The department may include in such report recommendations to address any identified pricing mechanism flaws that, if corrected, could result in lower energy cost to ratepayers. The department is hereby authorized and directed to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2012, all electric bills sent to retail and commercial customers by an electric or distribution company or competitive supplier shall include a separate line-item to reflect the rate charged for renewable energy generation, transmission, and distribution services contained in the total retail price. The department is hereby authorized and directed to determine whether any additional information shall be required to be disclosed on the bills and to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this subsection. Rules and regulations relative to the appeals process for billing disputes or damage claims made by

25 customers shall be published and distributed to customers as part of an education and outreach
26 program.