

HOUSE No. 1131

Bill accompanying the petition of John J. Hayes for legislation relative to the recording and publication of contributions for political purposes. Election Laws. January 28.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine.

AN ACT

To require the Making of Returns of Contributions for Political Purposes.

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. It shall be the duty of every person, firm
2 or corporation making a contribution to further the nom-
3 ination or election of any person to a national, state,
4 county or municipal office, to file three days before such
5 nomination or election, with the secretary of state, in
6 the case of a national or state office, with the county
7 commissioners, in the case of a county office, and with
8 the clerk of the city or town in the case of a municipal
9 office, a statement of the money so contributed, with the
10 name of the contributor and the purpose of the contribu-

tion, and it shall be unlawful to make any contribution as aforesaid at any time subsequent to the date above mentioned.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the officers with whom the above statements are filed as aforesaid, within six days after the nomination or election, to cause the same to be published in such newspapers as the secretary of state may determine in the case of national or state officers, as the county commissioners may select in the case of county officers, and as the mayor of the city or the selectmen of the town may select in the case of city or town officers, but the publication shall be made in at least one daily newspaper published in some city or town. The expense of the said publication shall be paid by the commonwealth, county, city or town, as the case may be.

SECTION 3. It shall be unlawful for any person or committee to accept a political contribution not made prior to the third day before the making of the nomination or the holding of the election in respect to which the contribution is made.

SECTION 4. A violation of this act shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of five hundred dollars for each fifty dollars contributed, or by a proportionate fine for any lesser or greater contribution, or by imprisonment, or by both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.