

By Mr. Dooley of Taunton, petition of Harold E. Cole that newspapers and magazines be required to be more nearly fair with candidates for public office and relative to actions of such periodicals in dealing with referendum questions. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REQUIRING NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES TO BE MORE NEARLY FAIR WITH CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE AND ON REFERENDUM QUESTIONS IN THE USE OF THEIR PUBLICITY POWERS.

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

1 Before a newspaper or magazine of current events
2 or like publication shall officially or in an editorial
3 recommend or endorse a candidate for public office
4 or favor or oppose a referendum measure, it shall
5 file a statement of its intention to do so, specifying
6 the name of the candidate or the title of the measure,
7 with the secretary of state not less than seven days
8 before said recommendation or endorsement is pub-
9 lished in said newspaper or magazine. Failure to
10 comply with the provisions of this act shall be punish-
11 able by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor
12 more than one thousand dollars.

