

HOUSE No. 708

By Mr. Kelley of North Attleborough, petition of Jarvis Hunt relative to contributions by corporations, companies, labor unions and others to campaign funds for political purposes or to influence or affect the vote on initiative petitions. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CONTRIBUTIONS BY CORPORATIONS, CERTAIN COMPANIES, LABOR UNIONS, AND OTHERS, OR PERSONS ACTING IN THEIR BEHALF, TO CAMPAIGN FUNDS, FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES OR TO INFLUENCE OR AFFECT THE VOTE ON INITIATIVE PETITIONS.

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. Chapter 55 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out section 7, as appear-
3 ing in section 10 of chapter 537 of the acts of 1946,
4 and inserting in place thereof the following section: —
5 *Section 7.* No corporation carrying on the business
6 of a bank, trust, surety, indemnity, safe deposit, in-
7 surance, railroad, street railway, telegraph, telephone,
8 gas, electric light, heat, power, canal, aqueduct, or
9 water company, no company having the right to take
10 land by eminent domain or to exercise franchises in
11 public ways, granted by the commonwealth or by

12 any county, city or town, no trustee or trustees
13 owning or holding the majority of the stock of such a
14 corporation, no business corporation incorporated
15 under the laws of or doing business in the common-
16 wealth, no labor union and no officer or agent acting
17 in behalf of any corporation mentioned in this section
18 or any labor union, shall directly or indirectly give,
19 pay, expend or contribute, or promise to give, pay,
20 expend or contribute, any money in excess of one
21 thousand dollars or other valuable thing the value of
22 which is in excess of one thousand dollars, for the
23 purpose of aiding, promoting or preventing the nomi-
24 nation or election of any person to public office, or
25 aiding, promoting or antagonizing the interests of any
26 political party, or influencing or affecting the vote on
27 any question submitted to the voters, other than one
28 materially affecting any of the property, business or
29 assets of the corporation or labor union. No person
30 or persons, no political committee, and no person
31 acting under the authority of a political committee,
32 or in its behalf, shall solicit or receive from such
33 corporation or such holders of stock or labor union
34 any gift, payment, expenditure, contribution or prom-
35 ise to give, pay, expend or contribute for any such
36 purpose in violation of this section.

37 Any corporation violating any provision of this
38 section shall be punished by a fine of not more than
39 ten thousand dollars, and any officer, director or
40 agent of a corporation violating any provision thereof
41 or authorizing such violation, or any person who
42 violates or in any way knowingly aids or abets the
43 violation of any provision thereof, shall be punished
44 by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or
45 by imprisonment for not more than six months.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 55 is hereby further
2 amended by striking out section 18, as appearing in
3 said section 10, and inserting in place thereof the
4 following section:—

5 *Section 18.* The treasurer of any corporation men-
6 tioned in section seven or of any labor union which
7 has given, paid, expended or contributed, or promised
8 to give, pay, expend or contribute, any money or
9 other valuable thing in order to influence or affect
10 the vote on any question submitted to the voters
11 which materially affects any of the property, business
12 or assets of the corporation or labor union, shall,
13 within thirty days after the election at which the
14 question was submitted to the voters, file a statement
15 with the state secretary setting forth the amount of
16 every gift, payment, expenditure or contribution or
17 promise to give, pay, expend or contribute, together
18 with the date, purpose and name and last known
19 address of the person to whom it was made.

20 Violation of any provision of this section shall be
21 punished by imprisonment for not more than one
22 year or by a fine of not more than one thousand
23 dollars.

