

HOUSE No. 1377

By Mr. Della Chiesa of Quincy, petition of George H. Jaspert relative to the liability of owners or operators of television or radio broadcasting stations for defamatory statements uttered over said stations. Legal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six.

AN ACT RELATING TO DEFAMATION BY RADIO AND TELECASTING.

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

1 Chapter 266 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by inserting after section 92 the following new section: —
3 *Section 92A.* The owner, licensee or operator of a
4 visual or sound radio broadcasting station or network
5 of stations and the agents or employees of any such
6 owner, licensee or operator, shall not be liable for any
7 damages for any defamatory statement published or
8 uttered in or as part of a visual or sound radio broadcast,
9 by one other than such owner, licensee or operator, or
10 agent or employee thereof, unless it shall be alleged, and
11 proved by the complaining party, that such owner,
12 licensee, operator or such agent or employee has failed
13 to exercise due care to prevent the publication or utter-
14 ance of such statement in such broadcast.

