

SENATE No. 110

To accompany the petition of Paul K. Connolly for legislation relative to paid advertisements by certain corporations or trustees. Mercantile Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN CORPORATIONS AND TRUSTEES TO PUBLISH AND CIRCULARIZE CERTAIN PAID ADVERTISING MATTER.

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 seven of chapter fifty-five of the General
2 Laws, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, is
3 hereby amended by inserting after the word "of",
4 in the twenty-second line, the following:—, or any
5 matter or thing unfavorably affecting,— so as to
6 read as follows:— *Section 7.* No corporation carry-
7 ing on the business of a bank, trust, surety, indemnity,
8 safe deposit, insurance, railroad, street railway, tele-
9 graph, telephone, gas, electric light, heat, power, canal,
10 aqueduct, or water company, or any company having
11 the right to take land by eminent domain or to exer-
12 cise franchises in public ways, granted by the common-
13 wealth or by any county, city or town, no trustee or
14 trustees owning or holding the majority of the stock
15 of such a corporation, no business corporation incor-

16 porated under the laws of or doing business in the
17 commonwealth and no officer or agent acting in behalf
18 of any corporation mentioned in this section, shall
19 directly or indirectly give, pay, expend or contribute,
20 or promise to give, pay, expend or contribute, any
21 money or other valuable thing in order to aid, promote
22 or prevent the nomination or election of any person
23 to public office, or to aid, promote or antagonize the
24 interests of any political party, or to influence or
25 affect the vote on any question submitted to the
26 voters. No person or persons, no political committee,
27 and no person acting under the authority of a political
28 committee, or in its behalf, shall solicit or receive
29 from such corporation or such holders of stock any
30 such gift, payment, expenditure, contribution or
31 promise to give, pay, expend or contribute; except
32 that such a corporation, or such trustee or trustees,
33 may in good faith publish or circulate paid matter
34 when, under a question submitted to the voters, the
35 taking, purchasing or acquiring of, or any matter or
36 thing unfavorably affecting, any of the property,
37 business or assets of the corporation is involved, pro-
38 vided that the name of the corporation appears therein
39 in the nature of a signature, and that, if inserted as
40 reading matter, such matter is preceded or followed
41 by the word "Advertisement", in the manner re-
42 quired by section thirty-three.