

# SENATE . . . . No. 273

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To accompany the petition of Edward J. Gallagher that abuse of the freedom of the press and evasion of the law of libel by irresponsible persons be prohibited. Joint Judiciary.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Two.

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### AN ACT

To prevent Abuse of the Freedom of the Press and Evasion of the Law of Libel by Irresponsible Publications.

*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. When the tangible property held  
2 by the publisher or publishers of any newspaper  
3 or periodical is insufficient to meet the amount of  
4 a damage claim made in a suit for libel brought  
5 against said newspaper or periodical, and when  
6 the defendant or defendants fail to furnish a bond  
7 for the amount of said claim within three days  
8 after notice of suit, then the plaintiff shall be  
9 given a lien on the newspaper or periodical and  
10 on any other property of said publisher or pub-

11 lishers to satisfy any judgment that may be  
12 obtained by the plaintiff on trial of said suit. If  
13 the editor in chief of said newspaper or periodical  
14 and the owner or owners of the printing plant  
15 from which it is issued are not also the publisher  
16 or publishers thereof, they may also be made  
17 defendants in any suit for libel brought under the  
18 provisions and scope of this act. Should the sums  
19 accruing from the lien as aforesaid be insufficient  
20 to meet the amount of the judgment, and should  
21 no settlement be made in any other way, then said  
22 newspaper or periodical shall be denied the right  
23 of publication, pending full settlement of the  
24 judgment; and during the interim it shall not be  
25 reissued under the same or any other title or by  
26 the same or any other parties.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its  
2 passage.



