

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1058

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Bill accompanying the petition of Joseph Joyce Donahue relative to associations or corporations acting in a legal capacity. Joint Judiciary. January 18.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixteen.

### AN ACT

Relative to Associations or Corporations acting as Counsel  
or in Other Legal Capacity.

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

1 It shall be unlawful for any corporation to practice or  
2 appear as an attorney-at-law for any person other than  
3 itself in any court in this state or before any judicial  
4 body, or to make it a business to practice as an attorney-  
5 at-law for any person other than itself, in any of said  
6 courts or to hold itself out to the public as being entitled  
7 to practice law, or to render or furnish legal services or  
8 advice, or to furnish attorneys or counsel or to render  
9 legal services of any kind in actions or proceedings of  
10 any nature or in any other way or manner, or in any  
11 other manner to assume to be entitled to practice law,

12 or to assume, use or advertise the title of lawyer or at-  
13 torney, attorney-at-law, or equivalent terms in any  
14 language in such manner as to convey the impression  
15 that it is entitled to practice law, or to furnish legal  
16 advice, services or counsel, or to advertise that either  
17 alone or together with or by or through any person,  
18 whether a duly and regularly admitted attorney-at-law,  
19 or not, it has, owns, conducts or maintains a law office  
20 or an office for the practice of law, or for furnishing legal  
21 advice, services or counsel. It shall be unlawful further  
22 for any corporation to solicit itself or by or through its  
23 officers, agents or employees any claim or demand for the  
24 purpose of bringing an action thereon or of representing  
25 as attorney-at-law, or for furnishing legal advice, services  
26 or counsel to, a person sued or about to be sued in any  
27 action or proceeding or against whom an action or pro-  
28 ceeding has been or is about to be brought, or who may  
29 be affected by any action or proceeding which has been  
30 or may be instituted in any court or before any judicial  
31 body, or for the purpose of so representing any person  
32 in the pursuit of any civil remedy. Any corporation  
33 violating the provisions of this section shall be liable to  
34 a fine of not more than five thousand dollars and every  
35 officer, trustee, director, agent or employee of such  
36 corporation who directly or indirectly engages in any of  
37 the acts herein prohibited or assists such corporation to  
38 do such prohibited acts is guilty of a misdemeanor. The  
39 fact that any such officer, trustee director, agent or  
40 employee shall be a duly and regularly admitted attorney-  
41 at-law shall not be held to permit or allow any such  
42 corporation to do the acts prohibited herein nor shall  
43 such fact be a defense upon the trial of any of the per-  
44 sons mentioned herein for a violation of the provisions  
45 of this section. This section shall not apply to any

46 corporation lawfully engaged in a business authorized  
47 by the provisions of any existing statute, nor to a cor-  
48 poration lawfully engaged in the examination and in-  
49 suring of titles to real property, nor shall it prohibit a  
50 corporation from employing an attorney or attorneys in  
51 and about its own immediate affairs or in any litigation  
52 to which it is or may be a party, nor shall it apply to  
53 organizations organized for benevolent or charitable pur-  
54 poses, or for the purpose of assisting persons without  
55 means in the pursuit of any civil remedy.

