

By Mr. Sullivan of Norwood, petition of Gregory William Sullivan relative to organizations attempting to influence legislation. State Administration.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ORGANIZATIONS ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION.

*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. Section 44 of chapter three of the General Laws,  
2 as most recently amended by chapter 458 of the acts of 1976, is  
3 hereby amended by striking out said section and inserting in the  
4 place thereof the following new section:—

5 On or before the fifteenth day of April, complete from January  
6 first through March thirty-first; and the fifteenth day of July,  
7 complete from April first through June thirty and the fifteenth day  
8 of October, complete from July first through September thirty-  
9 first; and the fifteenth day of January, complete from October first  
10 through December thirty-first, of the preceding year, any group or  
11 organization, however constituted, not employing a legislative  
12 agent which as part of an organized effort, expends in excess of two  
13 hundred and fifty dollars during any calendar year to promote,  
14 oppose, or influence legislation, or the governor's veto or approval  
15 thereof or to influence the decision of any member of the executive  
16 branch where such decision concerns legislation or the adoption,  
17 defeat, or postponement of a standard, rate, rule or regulation  
18 pursuant thereto shall register with state secretary by rendering a  
19 statement, under oath, containing the names and addresses of the  
20 principals of such group or organization, the purposes of the  
21 organization, the legislation which affects those purposes, the total  
22 amount of expenditures, incurred or paid during the reporting  
23 period in furtherance of the above stated objectives. Such itemized

24 accounting shall include, but shall not be limited to, specific  
25 expenditures for meals, gifts, transportation, entertainment,  
26 advertising, public relations, printing, mailing and telephone and  
27 the name of the payees and the amount paid to each payee. Where  
28 such expenditure is for meals, entertainment, or transportation,  
29 said expenditure shall be identified by date, place, amount, and the  
30 names of all persons in the group partaking in, or of, such meal,  
31 entertainment, or transportation. Such statement shall also  
32 itemize every expenditure made in excess of twenty-five dollars  
33 made during the period by the filer together with the date, amount,  
34 and a description of the consideration received for each such  
35 expenditure, and the name of the beneficiary of each expenditure  
36 other than the filer or the payee.

37 In addition such statement shall list:

38 (a) the name and official position of each elected state official,  
39 legislative official, and executive official, the name of each  
40 candidate, and the name of each member of the immediate family  
41 of any state official, legislative official, or executive official or state  
42 candidate with whom the organization has engaged in an exchange  
43 of money, goods, services, or anything of value, and the values of  
44 anything exchanged; and

45 (b) the name and address of any business entity in which the  
46 organization or member thereof knows or has reason to know that  
47 an elective state official, legislative official, executive official or  
48 state candidate is a proprietor, partner, director, officer, manager,  
49 or has more than a fifty per cent ownership interest with whom the  
50 organization or member thereof has engaged in an exchange of  
51 money, goods, services, or anything of value, and the nature and  
52 date of each exchange and the monetary value exchanged, if the  
53 total value of such exchanges is one thousand dollars or more in a  
54 calendar year; and

55 (c) the date and amount of each contribution made by the filer  
56 and the name of the recipient of each contribution; and

57 (d) a specific description of legislative or administrative action  
58 with which the organization has attempted to influence.

59 No expenditure shall be split or divided for the purpose of  
60 evading any provision of this section.

61 It shall be unlawful for a group or organization attempting to

62 influence legislation to make gifts or to arrange for the making of  
63 any gifts by any person to any state elective official, legislative  
64 official, executive official, or state candidate.

65 Any person who makes or receives a gift or expenditure in  
66 violation of this section is liable in civil action brought by the  
67 attorney general upon recommendation by the enforcement  
68 commission for an amount up to five hundred dollars or three  
69 times the amount of the unlawful gift or expenditure, whichever is  
70 greater.

71 The enforcement commission shall prescribe, and the state  
72 secretary shall make available the appropriate statement forms  
73 which after being completed and filed with the secretary shall be  
74 organized alphabetically according to the name of the group or  
75 organization, and such files shall be open and accessible for public  
76 inspection during normal business hours.

77 The state secretary shall retain all statements and reports filed  
78 with his office under the provisions of this section for at least a four  
79 year period. The state secretary may comply with this section by  
80 retaining a copy on microfilm or other space saving material,  
81 available for public inspection.

82 No conditions shall be imposed upon persons desiring to inspect  
83 or reproduce reports and statements filed under this act, nor shall  
84 any information or identification be required from such persons.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 1978.

