

HOUSE No. 456

Bill accompanying the petition of William M. McMorrow for further legislation relative to political expenditures and contributions by business corporations. Election Laws. January 11.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve.

AN ACT

Further to prohibit the Making of Political Contributions
by Business Corporations.

*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 one of chapter four hundred and
2 eighty-three of the acts of the year nineteen hundred
3 and eight is hereby amended by striking out all after the
4 word "shall", in the fourth line, and inserting the fol-
5 lowing in place thereof:— directly or indirectly give,
6 pay, expend or contribute, or promise to give, pay, ex-
7 pend or contribute any money or valuable thing in or-
8 der to aid, promote or prevent the nomination or elec-
9 tion of any person to public office, or in order to aid,
10 prevent or antagonize the interests of any political party.
11 No person or persons, no political committee and no
12 person acting under the authority of a political committee

13 or in its behalf, shall solicit or receive from such corpo-
14 ration any such gift, payment, expenditure or contri-
15 bution, or any promise to give, pay, expend or contrib-
16 ute, — so that said section shall read as follows:—
17 *Section 1.* No business corporation incorporated under
18 the laws of, or doing business in this commonwealth,
19 and no officer or agent acting in behalf of such corpora-
20 tion, shall directly or indirectly give, pay, expend or
21 contribute, or promise to give, pay, expend or contrib-
22 ute any money or other valuable thing in order to aid,
23 promote or prevent the nomination or election of any
24 person to public office, or in order to aid, promote or
25 antagonize the interests of any political party. No per-
26 son or persons, no political committee and no person
27 acting under the authority of a political committee or in its
28 behalf shall solicit or receive from such corporation any
29 such gift, payment, expenditure or contribution, or any
30 promise to give, pay, expend or contribute.

1 SECTION 2. Section two of said chapter four hundred
2 and eighty-three of the acts of nineteen hundred and
3 eight is hereby amended by adding after the word “vio-
4 lation”, in the fifth line, the words:—or any person who
5 violates or in any way knowingly aids or abets the vio-
6 lation of any provision of this act,— so that said section
7 shall read as follows:— *Section 2.* Any corporation
8 violating the provisions of this act shall be punished by
9 a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, and any
10 officer, director or agent of a corporation violating any
11 provision of this act or authorizing such violation, or
12 any person who violates or in any way knowingly aids
13 or abets the violation of any provision of this act, shall
14 be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand
15 dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months.