
Substituted by the House (in part), on motion of Mr. Long of Fall River, for a report of the committee on Election Laws, reference to the next annual session, on the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1482) of John J. Long and Milton R. Silva for an appropriation from the state treasury of a sum of money to defray a part of the cost of political campaigns in state elections. February 24.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 24, 1964.

1 *Whereas*, There is pending before the General Court a bill,
2 House, No. 1482, entitled "An Act appropriating a sum of
3 money to be paid to certain political parties for the purpose of
4 defraying part of the cost of the political campaign of such
5 parties in the next state election", a copy of which is submitted
6 herewith; and

7 *Whereas*, Grave doubt exists as to the constitutionality of
8 said bill, if enacted into law; therefore be it

9 *Ordered*, That the opinions of the Honorable the Justices of
10 the Supreme Judicial Court be required by the House of Repre-
11 sentatives upon the following important question of law:—

12 Is it within the competency of the House of Representatives
13 in view of Article LXII of the Articles of Amendments of the
14 Constitution to authorize the appropriation of the sum of two
15 hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund to be paid over
16 to the state committee of each political party to defray in part
17 the cost of the political campaigns of each such party for the
18 next biennial state election on behalf of candidates to be voted
19 for by all the voters of the Commonwealth, substantially as pro-
20 vided for in said bill?

WILLIAM C. MAIERS,
Clerk.

