

By Mr. Farrell of Worcester, petition of Charles H. McGlue, Thomas F. Farrell and George V. Kenneally, Jr., for legislation to expand the Massachusetts Corrupt Practices Act so as to include therein certain politically active groups. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT TO EXPAND THE PURPOSES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT SO AS TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PERSONS, GROUPS, AND ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICALLY ACTIVE IN THE COMMONWEALTH, BUT NOT AT PRESENT AMENABLE TO THE CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT.

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. Chapter fifty-five of the General Laws governs
2 the activity of all non-elected political committees in the
3 commonwealth. All corporations incorporated under the pro-
4 visions of chapter one hundred and eighty of the General
5 Laws that are politically motivated, such as League of
6 Women Voters, Junior Chambers of Commerce and Parent-
7 Teachers associations, are amenable to the Corrupt Practices
8 Act Chapter three, section fifty covers the political activities
9 of all persons engaged in legislative matters who are regis-
10 tered in the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

1 SECTION 2. With the exception of the persons, groups and
2 organizations that are covered by section one, every indi-
3 vidual, group or organization, which have a purported na-
4 tional base or whose origin, purpose and membership is un-
5 known or even nebulous in character, such as Americans
6 for Democratic Action, American Civil Liberties Union
7 Conference for Concerned Democrats, Dissenting Democrats,
8 McCarthy for President Committee, Stop the Draft Com-
9 mittee, PAX, and Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy who

10 are actively promoting political activity in this common-
11 wealth or promoting the success or defeat of a candidate at a
12 primary or election, or a political party or a principle in a
13 public election, or favoring or opposing the adoption or
14 rejection of a political question, or for any other political
15 purposes and policies shall register the name of the organiza-
16 tion and its purposes with the secretary of state of Massachu-
17 setts.

18 This registration of the name, address of their home office,
19 the names and addresses of their Massachusetts officers and
20 their operating personnel shall be on file at the secretary of
21 state's office before any solicitation of funds or expenditure of
22 money or the incurring of any financial obligations or any
23 type of political operation shall be undertaken in this com-
24 monwealth. Thereafter they shall file every fifteen days
25 thereafter with the secretary of state a detailed statement of
26 all contributions received, with the name and address of each
27 donor listed as well as a complete breakdown of their ex-
28 penditures in their political operations in the commonwealth
29 including the names and addresses of all residents of Massa-
30 chusetts who are the recipients of their largesse.

1 SECTION 3. Violation of any provision of this act shall be
2 punished by imprisonment for not more than six months or
3 by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or both.

1 SECTION 4. The individuals, groups and organizations that
2 come under the provisions of this act, are subject to the
3 restrictions on financial receipts and expenditures as outlined
4 in section one to twenty-four of chapter fifty-three of the
5 General Laws, insofar as they are applicable.

1 SECTION 5. Upon the application of the attorney general or
2 the district attorney in any district, the supreme judicial or
3 superior court may compel any person or group to file detailed
4 statements of their political receipts or expenditures.