

HOUSE No. 5384

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 21, 1971.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2813) of Edward J. Dever, Jr., for legislation to prohibit political activities at polling places; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2819) of Theodore D. Mann relative to the posting and distribution of political literature and stickers; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3595) of Albert L. O'Neil, Robert B. Ambler and Raymond M. LaFontaine that campaign workers be prohibited from distributing election material at polling places, report recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5384) ought to pass [Representatives Atkins of Acton, Buffone of Worcester, Businger of Brookline, Carrigan of Lynn and Dickson of Weston dissenting].

For the committee,

ALLAN McGUANE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REGULATING THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF STATE, CITY AND TOWN OFFICERS.

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

1 Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out section 65, as most recently amended by chapter 62 of the
3 acts of 1970, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 *Section 65.* At an election of state or city officers, and of
6 town officers in towns where official ballots are used, the
7 presiding election officer at each polling place shall, before the
8 opening of the polls, post at least three cards of instruction, three
9 cards containing abstracts of the laws imposing penalties upon
10 voters, three copies of measures to be submitted to the people, if
11 any, and at least five specimen ballots within the polling place
12 outside the ground rail, and a copy of each measure to be
13 submitted to the people in each marking compartment; and no
14 other poster, card, handbill, placard, picture or circular in-
15 tended to influence the action of the voter shall be posted,
16 exhibited, circulated or distributed in the polling place, in the
17 building where the polling place is located, on the walls thereof,
18 on the premises on which the building stands, or within five
19 hundred feet of the entrance to such polling place. No candidate
20 for state, city, or town office, or any other person, shall position
21 himself, in any manner, within said five hundred feet of the
22 entrance to a polling place for the purpose of influencing the
23 action of the voter. Said restrictions shall not apply to any
24 automobile or vehicle used exclusively to transport voters to the
25 polls and which is temporarily parked within five hundred feet of
26 the entrance to a polling place.

27 Posters, commonly called stickers, shall not be posted, circu-
28 lated or distributed in the polling place, in the building where the
29 polling place is located, on the walls thereof, on the premises on
30 which the building stands, or within five hundred feet of the

31 entrance to such polling place. Such posters shall be subject to all
32 the restrictions imposed by section forty-one and forty-four as to
33 names and residences of candidates and the size of type in which
34 the names shall be printed; but no political or other designation
35 shall appear on such posters, and no vote by poster shall be
36 counted if such designation appears. The presiding election
37 officer shall, at the opening of the polls, publicly open the
38 package containing the ballots and deliver them to the ballot
39 clerks. All specimen ballots not posted shall be kept in the
40 custody of the presiding officer until after the closing of the
41 polls.

42 No rule, regulation or provision of law shall prohibit a person
43 who is a member of a police or fire department of the Common-
44 wealth, or any political subdivision thereof, who is not on active
45 duty, from distributing such material five hundred feet distant
46 from a polling place in an election where there appears on the
47 ballot a referendum pertaining to, or affecting, the conditions of
48 employment, including hours of labor and compensation, in the
49 department of which said person is a member subject to the
50 provisions of this section.

51 Whoever posts, exhibits, circulates or distributes any posters,
52 card, handbill, placecard, picture or circular intended to in-
53 fluence the action of a voter, or any poster to be placed upon the
54 official ballot, in violation of any provision of this section, shall
55 be punished by a fine of not more than twenty dollars.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the war. It is a very interesting and well-written account of the events of the year. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well organized and easy to read. It is a valuable contribution to the history of the war.

The second part of the report deals with the military operations of the year. It is a very detailed and accurate account of the campaigns and battles. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well organized and easy to read. It is a valuable contribution to the history of the war.

The third part of the report deals with the political and social conditions of the country. It is a very interesting and well-written account of the events of the year. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well organized and easy to read. It is a valuable contribution to the history of the war.

The fourth part of the report deals with the economic conditions of the country. It is a very interesting and well-written account of the events of the year. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well organized and easy to read. It is a valuable contribution to the history of the war.