

HOUSE No. 934

By Mr. Olver of Amherst, petition of John W. Olver and Paul Murphy relative to limiting the amount of money which candidates for certain offices may expend for television, radio, newspaper, billboard and bulk mail advertising. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WHICH CANDIDATES FOR CERTAIN OFFICES MAY EXPEND FOR TELEVISION, RADIO, NEWSPAPERS, BILLBOARDS AND BULK MAIL ADVERTISING.

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 55 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 17 the following section: —

3 *Section 17A.* As used in this section “campaign expense”
4 shall mean any expenditure for television or radio time or for
5 newspaper, billboard or bulk mail advertising and shall include
6 expenditures by a candidate, a political committee or any
7 person on behalf of a candidate.

8 The combined campaign expense of the candidates for gov-
9 ernor and lieutenant-governor shall not exceed twenty-five
10 cents for each registered voter at the next preceding state
11 election.

12 The campaign expense of any other candidate for office at a
13 state election shall not exceed fifteen cents for each registered
14 voter who was qualified to vote at the next preceding state
15 election for the office which such candidate is seeking.

16 The state secretary shall furnish each candidate with receipt
17 forms and a tally sheet on which each campaign expense, as
18 hereinbefore defined, shall be recorded by the candidate and
19 the vendor. Each receipt shall be sent to the state secretary
20 immediately after completion and the tally sheet shall be

21 shown to each vendor who contracts to furnish any item
22 hereinbefore defined as campaign expense.

23 Any vendor who contracts with a candidate for a campaign
24 expense which would result in a total expenditure in excess of
25 the limits established by this section shall be punished by a
26 fine equivalent to the amount of such excess.

27 Any candidate whose campaign expense exceeds the limits
28 established by this section shall be punished by a fine equiva-
29 lent to the amount by which such expense exceeds such limits.

30 If any candidate for office, who has been elected, has
31 exceeded the limit of campaign expense established by this
32 section his election shall be void and the state secretary shall
33 call another election for such office.