

HOUSE No. 2668

By Mr. Farrell of Worcester, petition of Charles H. McGlue and Thomas F. Farrell 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-Two.

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 55 of the General Laws governs the
2 activity of all non-elected political committees in the common-
3 wealth. All corporations incorporated under the provisions of
4 chapter 180 of the General Laws that are politically motivated,
5 such as League of Women Voters, Junior Chambers of Com-
6 merce and Parent-Teachers associations, are amenable to the
7 Corrupt Practices Act. Chapter 3, section 50 covers the politi-
8 cal activities of all persons engaged in legislative matters who
9 are registered 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 1, every individual,
3 group or organization, which have a purported national base or
4 whose origin, purpose and membership is unknown or even
5 nebulous in character, such as Americans for Democratic Ac-
6 tion, American Civil Liberties Union, Conference for Concerned
7 Democrats, Dissenting Democrats, McCarthy for President Com-

8 mittee, Stop the Draft Committee, PAX, and Committee for a
9 Sane Nuclear Policy who are actively promoting political ac-
10 tivity in this commonwealth or promoting the success or defeat
11 of a candidate at the primary or election, or a political party
12 or a principle in a public election, or favoring or opposing the
13 adoption or rejection of a political question, or for any other
14 political purposes and policies shall register the name of the
15 organization and its purposes with the secretary of state of
16 Massachusetts.

17 This registration of the name, address of their home office,
18 the names and addresses of their Massachusetts officers and
19 their operating personnel shall be on file at the secretary of
20 state's office before any solicitation of funds or expenditure of
21 money or the incurring of any financial obligations or any type
22 of political operation shall be undertaken in this common-
23 wealth. Thereafter they shall file every fifteen days thereafter
24 with the secretary of state a detailed statement of all contribu-
25 tions received, with the name and address of each donor listed
26 as well as a complete breakdown of their expenditures in their
27 political operations in the commonwealth including the names
28 and addresses of all residents of Massachusetts who are the
29 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 by
3 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 in
4 section 1 to 24 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, insofar as
5 they are applicable.

1 SECTION 5. Upon the application of the attorney general
2 or 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.