

By Mr. Kollios of Millbury, petition of Paul Kollios relative to election officers. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ELECTION 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 Section 22 of chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by adding the following paragraph: —

3 An employer shall not deprive an election officer of any State
4 Primary or Election of his employment or any incidents or benefits
5 thereof, nor shall an employer harass, threaten, or coerce an
6 employee because the employee has been appointed as an election
7 officer, responds thereto, or performs any obligation of service.

8 An employer shall not impose compulsory work assignments
9 upon any election officer-employee nor shall the employer do any
10 other intentional act which will substantially interfere with the
11 availability, effectiveness, attentiveness, or peace of mind of the
12 employee during the performance of his service. Any employer
13 who violates this section shall be guilty of a crime and, upon
14 conviction, may be punished by a fine of not more than five
15 thousand dollars. Any employer who violates this section also
16 shall be liable in tort to the election officer-employee. The election
17 officer-employee may commence a civil action in the superior
18 court for such damages and injunctive relief as may be
19 appropriate. The court may award treble damages and reasonable
20 attorney's fees to the election officer upon a finding of willful
21 conduct by the employer.

