

HOUSE No. 517.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 21, 1890.

The committee on Election Laws, who were instructed to consider the expediency of limiting and regulating the use of money at elections and in securing nominations for office, and also of requiring persons elected to any office to file accounts, etc., report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

ELIHU B. HAYES.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT

To Secure the Publication of Election Expenses.

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. State, district, city, town and all
2 other committees of all political parties, political
3 clubs and other equivalent organizations, and all
4 committees or organizations assisting in the
5 election of any candidate for a political office
6 shall have treasurers and shall cause to be kept
7 by them detailed accounts of all monies received
8 by them, and of the manner in which the same
9 have been expended; and within thirty days
10 after any election at which state officers or
11 members of congress are chosen, the treasurer of
12 any such committee, club or other organization,
13 which shall have expended money in the cam-
14 paign preceding such election, or in any way

15 in connection with the same, shall file with the
16 secretary of the Commonwealth or with the
17 clerk of the city or town where such committee,
18 club or other organizations has its headquarters,
19 a return, subscribed and sworn to by him, setting
20 forth the aggregate amount of its receipts, and a
21 detailed statement of all its expenditures and
22 disbursements. Any person not a member of
23 any such committee or organization who collects
24 or disburses funds for election purposes, exceed-
25 ing twenty-five dollars in amount, shall be
26 deemed to be a committee within the meaning
27 of this act, and shall file the statement hereby
28 required to be filed by treasurers of committees.

1 SECT. 2. Any member of any of the commit-
2 tees, clubs or other organizations described in
3 section one, who shall receive or disburse any
4 moneys for political or campaign purposes, or in
5 connection with any election set forth in section
6 one, shall forthwith give to the treasurer of such
7 committee, club or other organization a detailed
8 statement of such receipts, disbursements and
9 expenditures, or else shall file an individual
10 account as above provided; and such treasurer
11 shall include such statement in his return, re-
12 quired by said section one. And no member of
13 any of said committees, clubs or other organi-
14 zations shall receive, disburse or expend any
15 moneys for political or campaign purposes, or
16 in connection with any election, unless the com-
17 mittee, club or other organization of which he is

18 a member shall first have chosen a treasurer to
19 keep its accounts, as hereinbefore provided.

1 SECT. 3. Whoever shall be a candidate before
2 any caucus or convention, or at any election for
3 the office of representative in the congress of the
4 United States, or for any state office, shall, within
5 thirty days after the time fixed by law for the
6 election to such office, file with the secretary of
7 the Commonwealth a detailed statement, sub-
8 scribed and sworn to by him, of all moneys
9 contributed, disbursed, promised or expended by
10 him, or by any one, to the best of his knowledge
11 and belief in his behalf in attempting to secure,
12 or in any manner in connection with, the nomina-
13 tion or election to such office.

1 SECT. 4. Whoever shall wilfully make any
2 false statement in any return or statement re-
3 quired by this act shall be deemed guilty of
4 perjury, and whoever shall violate any of the
5 provisions of this act shall be punished by fine
6 not exceeding one thousand dollars or by
7 imprisonment not exceeding one year.

1 SECT. 5. The returns and statements required
2 by this act shall be made in conformity with the
3 following schedules: —

[Schedule for candidates.]

I do solemnly swear that the following is a full and true
statement of all moneys contributed, disbursed, promised or ex-
pended in my behalf by me, or by any one to the best of my

knowledge and belief, to secure my nomination or election to the office of

(1) Cost of printed and written matter and circulation of same.

(2) Amounts severally paid to specified campaign committees, clubs and other political organizations.

(3) Amounts paid for the services of any person on election day, stating specifically the nature of the services rendered.

(4) Other expenses to be specified in detail.

[Signed]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of
at

A. B. *Justice of the Peace* [or] *Notary Public*.

[Schedule for treasurers.]

I the treasurer of do solemnly swear that the following is a full and true statement of the receipts, disbursements and expenditures of the for [here specify the election.]

(1) Receipts.

(a) Amounts received from all persons holding a state or national office.

(b) Amounts received from other contributors.

(c) Amounts received from all other sources.

(2) Expenditures.

(a) Cost of printed and written matter and circulation of same.

(b) Cost of public meetings and parades.

(c) Other expenses to be specified in detail.

[Signed]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of
at

A. B. *Justice of the Peace* [or] *Notary Public*.

1 SECT. 6. This act shall take effect upon the
2 first day of September, eighteen hundred and
3 ninety.

