

By Mr. Hermann of North Andover, petition of Joseph N. Hermann and another relative to directing the Legislative Research Bureau to make an investigation and study of certain House documents concerning political contributions and expenditures and other related matters. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three.

Ordered, That the Legislative Research Bureau be required to make an investigation and study relative to corporate contributions to referendum questions as substantially set forth in nineteen hundred and eighty-two House documents 4268, legislation regulating certain political contributions and expenditures; 2394, relative to contributions favoring or opposing referendum questions; 2395, legislation to restrict campaign expenditures on referendum questions, 3462, prohibiting the use of public funds or property of the state, cities or towns to support or oppose so called ballot questions; and 4983 to allow municipal corporations to spend public funds to promote or oppose referendum questions submitted to the voters.

Such study shall specifically include but not be limited to constitutionality, comparison with other states, and the right of free speech as applied to a corporation's ability to influence ballot questions. Said bureau shall file its report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives on or before the last Wednesday of November, nineteen hundred and eighty-three.

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