

HOUSE No. 16

Bill accompanying the petition of Robert M. Washburn relative to promoting or opposing proposed legislation for hire. Joint Judiciary. January 2.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen.

AN ACT

Relative to promoting or opposing Proposed Legislation for Hire.

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. It shall be the duty of the civil service
2 commission to inquire into and conserve, so far as it may
3 be able to do, the proper position and relation of members
4 of the general court and those who promote or oppose
5 proposed legislation, for compensation or reward, as more
6 particularly set out in the provisions of this act. The
7 commission shall take over the duties, dockets, records
8 and returns of the secretary of the commonwealth and
9 the sergeant at arms relative to legislative counsel and
10 legislative agents.

1 SECTION 2. No person who within one year has been

2 registered as a legislative counsel, or a legislative agent,
3 or who, directly or indirectly, with any member of the
4 general court, for compensation or reward, within one
5 year, has promoted or opposed proposed legislation, shall
6 make, directly or indirectly, for himself or for others, a
7 financial contribution to or for the benefit of a candidate
8 for a party nomination, or for election to the general
9 court, or to or for the benefit of a political organization,
10 association or committee, permanent or temporary. No
11 candidate for a party nomination, or for election to the
12 general court, and no political organization, association
13 or committee, permanent or temporary, shall accept,
14 directly or indirectly, for himself or itself, or for his or
15 its benefit, a financial contribution from a person, who,
16 within one year, has been registered as a legislative
17 counsel, or a legislative agent, or who, known to him, or
18 to it, directly or indirectly, with any member of the gen-
19 eral court, for compensation or reward, within one year,
20 has promoted or opposed proposed legislation. The
21 commission shall cause to be sent, annually, upon the
22 filing of nomination papers with the secretary of the
23 commonwealth, a copy of this act to candidates for the
24 general court and to permanent political organizations,
25 associations and committees.

1 SECTION 3. No person shall, in any way, directly or
2 indirectly, employ, or agree to employ, for compensation
3 or reward, to promote or oppose proposed legislation, a
4 legislative counsel or a legislative agent, or other person,
5 unless he shall have qualified himself for such duties in
6 the manner hereinafter set forth. No person shall act
7 as a legislative counsel, or a legislative agent, or, in any
8 way, directly or indirectly, with any member of the gen-
9 eral court, for compensation or reward, promote or op-

10 pose, or agree to promote or oppose proposed legislation,
11 except as hereinafter qualified. No person in the employ
12 of a corporation, association or committee, formed, in
13 whole or in part, for the purpose of promoting or oppos-
14 ing proposed legislation, shall act as a legislative counsel,
15 or a legislative agent, or, in any way, directly or in-
16 directly, promote or oppose, or agree to promote or
17 oppose proposed legislation, with any member of the
18 general court, unless qualified in the manner hereinafter
19 set forth. No person, who, by rule of either branch of
20 the general court, has access to the floor of either branch,
21 shall promote or oppose proposed legislation, directly,
22 with any member thereof, thereon. No person shall
23 petition or qualify, under the provisions of this act,
24 except as an individual, and not as a partnership or
25 corporation.

1 SECTION 4. The commission shall, upon petition, qual-
2 ify any person for service as a legislative counsel, or a
3 legislative agent, upon satisfactory evidence of his char-
4 acter and capacity; may, upon its own motion, inquire
5 into the practices of any person so qualified; and may,
6 upon petition or its own initiative, after due notice and
7 hearing, revoke such qualification. Such qualification
8 shall be of permanent force and effect unless revoked.
9 Such person, so qualified, shall have the same access to
10 all parts of the state house as though he were not a legis-
11 lative counsel or a legislative agent. A person who
12 registers as legislative counsel, for or against but one bill
13 and for but one legislative session, may, in the discretion
14 of the commission, be exempted from the operation of
15 this section.

1 SECTION 5. A legislative counsel, or a legislative agent,

2 or any person, who, directly or indirectly, with any mem-
3 ber of the general court, for compensation or reward,
4 desires to promote or oppose proposed legislation, shall
5 qualify, before entering upon his service, by filing, an-
6 nually, in his individual capacity, with the commission,
7 an affidavit, which shall set out: that he is not a member
8 of a city, ward, or town political committee; that he has
9 not made, directly or indirectly, for himself or for others,
10 a financial contribution to or for the benefit of a candi-
11 date for a party nomination, or for election to the general
12 court with which he is to act; or to or for the benefit of
13 a political organization, association or committee, per-
14 manent or temporary, having to do with such nomination
15 or election.

1 SECTION 6. Any violation of any of the provisions of
2 this act, or false affidavits or returns thereunder, shall be
3 punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars,
4 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by
5 both such fine and imprisonment.