

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 995**

By Mr. Murphy of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 995) of Kevin J. Murphy for legislation to establish the office of Commissioner of Insurance as an elected position, Financial Services.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:  
**Kevin J. Murphy**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act calling for accountability of the Commissioner of Insurance by converting the position to an elected office.

PETITION OF:

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| NAME:           | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
| Kevin J. Murphy | 18th Middlesex    |

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**AN ACT CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE BY  
CONVERTING THE POSITION TO AN ELECTED OFFICE.**

*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 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after Section 3B the  
2 following new sections:—

3 Section 3C. Election of Insurance Commissioner.

4 (a) "Commissioner", as used in this section, is the commissioner of the division of insurance.

5 (b) The commissioner shall be elected by the people in the same time, place, and manner, and for the  
6 same term, as the Governor.

7 (c) The commissioner in office on the effective date of this section shall continue in office for the  
8 remainder of the term for which the commissioner was appointed and until a successor is duly elected and  
9 qualified.

10 (d) The commissioner of insurance shall be a person having experience with insurance and matters  
11 relating thereto; and shall give personal presence and attention to the duties of the office; but in no case  
12 shall such commissioner be in the employment of any insurance company or have any official connection  
13 with any insurance company or insurance agency, or have any financial interest in any insurance company  
14 or insurance agency other than as policyholder.

15 (e) The commissioner may be removed from office for just cause, as provided by the impeachment  
16 provisions of the constitution of the commonwealth.

17 (f) A vacancy in the office of commissioner shall be filled by appointment by the Governor.

18 Section 3D. Contributions to Insurance Commissioner.

19 (a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

20 "Bundling" means the process by which campaign contributions are gathered from more than one  
21 individual or committees that gather funds and provide them in a coordinated fashion to a candidate, a  
22 campaign committee or an entity thereof.

23 "Campaign committee" means the candidate, person, or committee which accepts contributions to  
24 bring about the nomination for elections of an individual to the office of insurance commissioner.

25 "Contribution" means a gift, subscription, membership, loan, forgiveness of debt, advance or deposit  
26 of money, or anything of value conveyed or transferred for the purpose of influencing the nomination for  
27 election or election of an individual to the office of insurance commissioner or encouraging the holder of  
28 such office to seek reelection.

29 The term "contribution" shall include the payment of a qualifying fee for and on behalf of a candidate  
30 for the office of insurance commissioner and any other payment or purchase made for and on behalf of  
31 the holder of the office of insurance commissioner or for or on behalf of a candidate for that office when  
32 such payment or purchase is made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election or election  
33 of the candidate and is made pursuant to the request or authority of the holder of such office, the  
34 candidate, the campaign committee of the candidate, or any other agent of the holder of such office or  
35 candidate. The term "contribution" shall not include the value of personal services performed by persons  
36 who serve on a voluntary basis without compensation from any source.

37 "Insurance Commissioner" means the commissioner of the division of insurance.

38 "Political action committee" means any committee, club, association, partnership, corporation, labor  
39 union, or other group of persons which receives donations aggregating in excess of one thousand dollars  
40 during a calendar year from persons who are members or supporters of the committee and which  
41 distributes these funds as contributions to one or more campaign committees of candidates for public  
42 office. Such term does not mean a campaign committee.

43 "Regulated entity" means any person who is required by law to be licensed by or subject to the  
44 jurisdiction of the insurance commissioner or a board under the jurisdiction of the insurance  
45 commissioner, any person who leases property owned by or for a state department, or any person who  
46 engages in a business or profession which is regulated by an elected executive officer.

47 (b) No regulated entity and no person or political action committee acting on behalf of a regulated  
48 entity shall make a contribution to or on behalf of a person holding office as insurance commissioner  
49 regulating such entity or to or on behalf of a candidate for the office of insurance commissioner regulating  
50 such entity or to or on behalf of a campaign committee of any such candidate.

51 (c) No person holding office as insurance commissioner and no candidate for the office of insurance  
52 commissioner and no campaign committee of a candidate for the office of insurance commissioner shall  
53 accept a contribution in violation of subsection (b) of this section.

54 (d) No person who is a present employee, director, consultant, or attorney of, or who is affiliated with,  
55 any regulated entity shall participate in the bundling of contributions to a candidate for the office of  
56 insurance commissioner. Violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten thousand  
57 dollars nor more than fifty thousand dollars.

58 (e) It shall be unlawful and a violation of this section for any regulated entity or other person to  
59 require another by coercive action to make any contribution to a candidate or the campaign committee of  
60 a candidate. Violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars nor  
61 more than fifty thousand dollars.

62 (f) All candidates for insurance commissioner shall disclose the following information to the secretary  
63 of state in computerized form: the contributor's full name, home address, the date of the contribution, and  
64 the amount of the contribution.

65 (g) Candidates for insurance commissioner are prohibited from accepting any donation or contribution  
66 unless all of the information required in section (2) subsection (f) is provided.