

By Mr. Serra of Boston, petition of Emanuel G. Serra for legislation to make election laws in the Commonwealth compatible with certain provisions of federal election laws. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT MAKING MASSACHUSETTS ELECTION LAWS COMPATIBLE WITH CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL ELECTION LAWS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 55 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 8 the following new section:—

3 *Section 8A.* Any corporation may establish and administer a
4 political committee for the purpose of influencing the election of
5 candidates. Said political committee shall be organized under the
6 provisions of this chapter. No corporate funds or other corporate
7 assets other than name shall be contributed to or expended on
8 behalf of such a political committee except as provided in this
9 section. For the purpose of administering a political committee
10 organized on behalf of a corporation, said corporation may at its
11 own expense provide office space, phones, postage, salaries, utili-
12 ties, supplies, legal and accounting fees, and other expenses or
13 services incurred in establishing, and necessary and directly related
14 to administering, said political committee. In addition the corpora-
15 tion may provide other expenses or services if said expenses or
16 services are deemed appropriate by the director of campaign fi-
17 nance. A corporation may not provide any of the services provided
18 for in this section to any political committee other than the one
19 established on behalf of said corporation. Nothing in this section
20 shall exempt any corporation from the provisions of section eight
21 with respect to corporate contributions to candidates.

22 *Section 8B.* Any political committee established under the pro-
23 visions of section 8A shall contain as part of its name the name of

24 the sponsoring corporation and shall be organized in accordance
25 with the provisions of this chapter before any services can be
26 provided to it by the sponsoring corporation. A corporation and its
27 subsidiaries and/or affiliates may have only one such committee.

28 In addition to the January 10th report required of political
29 committees by this chapter, said political committee shall on a
30 form prescribed by the director make an annual report of all the
31 services and support provided to the political committee by the
32 sponsoring corporation.

33 *Section 8C.* No person employed by a corporation, shall for
34 that reason be under any obligation to contribute to any political
35 fund, or to render any political service and shall not be removed or
36 otherwise prejudged for refusing to do so. Anyone soliciting an
37 employee of a corporation for a contribution to a corporate politi-
38 cal action committee shall inform such employee of the political
39 purpose of the contribution at the time of solicitation, that he has a
40 right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal.

41 *Section 8D.* Any corporation which establishes a political com-
42 mittee and provides support services to said political committee
43 under the provision of 8A may only solicit its stockholders and
44 their families and its executive or administrative personnel and
45 their families. Provided however, that a voluntary association
46 established as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Massa-
47 chusetts, may also solicit the officers, directors and executive and
48 administrative personnel of its members, provided further that
49 such members shall be doing business in the Commonwealth and
50 that any individual solicited shall be employed within the Com-
51 monwealth.

52 *Section 8E.* Any corporation violating any provision of sec-
53 tions 8A, 8B, 8C, and 8D shall be punished by a fine of not more
54 than fifty thousand dollars and any officer, director or agent of the
55 corporation violating any provision thereof or authorizing such
56 violation, or any person who violates or in any way knowingly aids
57 or abets the violation of any provision thereof, shall be punished by
58 a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or by imprisonment
59 for not more than one year or both.