

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of Michael Joseph Connolly and John A. Businger for legislation relative to reforming the campaign finance law. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REFORMING CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

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. Section 43 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph, as most recent-
3 ly amended by chapter 107 of the acts of 1980, and inserting in
4 place thereof the following paragraph: —

5 On or before the fifteenth day of July, complete from January
6 first through June thirtieth; and the fifteenth day of January,
7 complete from July first to December thirty-first of the preceding
8 year, every legislative agent appearing on the docket shall render
9 to the state secretary an itemized statement, under oath, listing all
10 campaign contributions, as defined in section one of chapter fifty-
11 five, and all expenditures, and the total amount thereof, incurred,
12 contributed, or paid during the impending period in the course of
13 his employment as a legislative agent, except that in the case of
14 expenditures the legislative agent need not itemize the expendi-
15 tures of any one day in which the amount incurred or paid did not
16 total thirty-five dollars or more. Such itemized accounting in-
17 curred, contributed or paid shall include but not be limited to
18 specific expenditures for meals, gifts, transportation, entertain-
19 ment, advertising, public relations, printing, mailing and tele-
20 phones; and shall also include the names of the payees and the
21 amount paid to each payee and shall further include the names of
22 the candidate or political committee to whom or to which the
23 contribution was made, and the amount of each contribution.
24 When such expenditure is for meals, entertainment or transporta-
25 tion, said expenditure shall be identified by date, place, amount,
26 and the names of all persons in the grouping partaking in or of

27 such meal, entertainment or transportation. No expenditure shall
28 be split or divided for the purpose of evading any provision of this
29 section. The state secretary shall, within thirty days of receipt of
30 such accounting, notify, by registered mail, those legislators and
31 those members of the executive branch whose names appear there-
32 in as having received campaign contributions, meals, transpor-
33 tation or entertainment as to the nature of the contribution or
34 expenditure claims, the date and amount of such expenditure or
35 contribution, and the person or persons who reported the contri-
36 bution or expenditure.

1 SECTION 2. Section 6 of chapter 55 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph, appearing
3 in section 2 of chapter 774 of the acts of 1975, and inserting in place
4 thereof the following paragraph: —

5 Any other political committee, duly organized, may receive, pay
6 and expend money or other things of value for the enhancement of
7 the political future of the candidate or the principle for which the
8 committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not pri-
9 marily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use, pro-
10 vided, however, that the director shall establish reasonable rules
11 and regulations concerning such expenditures. Any such commit-
12 tee may contribute to other political committees and may contrib-
13 ute to the campaign fund of a candidate; provided, that the aggre-
14 gate of all such contributions to a political committee organized on
15 behalf of a candidate and to the campaign fund of that candidate
16 shall not exceed two thousand dollars in any calendar year with
17 respect to a candidate for statewide office, and one thousand dol-
18 lars with respect to any other candidate; and provided further, that
19 the aggregate of all such contributions to any other political com-
20 mittee shall not exceed two thousand dollars in any calendar year.
21 The aggregate of all such contributions made by such a committee
22 organized on behalf of a candidate to another nonelected political
23 committee organized on behalf of a candidate shall not exceed in
24 any one calendar year the sum of one hundred dollars; provided,
25 that the aggregate of all such contributions made by such a com-
26 mittee organized on behalf of candidates shall not exceed in any
27 one calendar year the sum of fifteen hundred dollars.