

HOUSE No. 548

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Josh S. Cutler

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act improving disclosure of electioneering communications reports.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Viriato M. deMacedo</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>

<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannal</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 548

By Mr. Cutler of Duxbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 548) of Josh S. Cutler and others relative to improving disclosure of electioneering communications reports. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act improving disclosure of electioneering communications reports.

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 striking out section 18F, as so
2 appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:—

3 Section 18F. Every individual, group or association not defined as a political committee
4 who makes an electioneering communication expenditure, in an aggregate amount exceeding
5 \$250 during a calendar year, shall electronically file with the director, within 7 days after making
6 such an expenditure, a report stating the name and address of the individual, group or association
7 making the electioneering communication, the name of any candidate clearly identified in the
8 communication, the total amount or value of the communication, the name and address of the
9 vendor to whom the payments were made and the purpose and date of any such expenditure. In
10 addition, any individual, group or association not defined as a political committee who makes an
11 electioneering communication expenditure, in an aggregate amount exceeding \$250 during a
12 calendar year, shall include in the electronic filing the date the funds were received and the name

13 and address of the provider of any such funds in excess of \$250, if any. Reports required by this
14 section shall be filed with the director as provided in section 18C if communications were made
15 to promote the election or defeat of any candidate who files with the director. Reports required
16 by this section shall be filed with the city or town clerk if the communications were made to
17 promote the election or defeat of any candidate seeking public office at a city or town election
18 who does not otherwise file with the director.

19 Any person, group or association that makes or contracts to make electioneering
20 communications aggregating \$1,000 or more within 7 days before the date of an election shall
21 file a report containing the information required by this section within 48 hours after making
22 such expenditure.

23 A violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by
24 imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 1 year.