

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 559****The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Cory Atkins***

*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 relative to the accountability of corporate political spending.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/11/2013</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/28/2013</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	
<i>Linda Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	

<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 559

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By Ms. Atkins of Concord, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 559) of Cory Atkins and others relative to accountability for certain corporate political activities. Election Laws.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 305 OF 2011-2012.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen  
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An Act relative to the accountability of corporate political spending.

*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. This Act may be cited as the “Massachusetts Corporate Accountability Act  
2 of 2013”.

3           SECTION 2. Chapter 156B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
4 section 8 the following new section: -

5           Section 8A. (a) In this section: (1) “political activity” shall mean any contribution,  
6 expenditure, independent expenditure, or electioneering communication, as defined by section 1  
7 of chapter 55; but “political activity” does not include: (i) activity defined as lobbying under any  
8 local, state or federal law; (ii) communication by a corporation to its stockholders and executive  
9 or administrative personnel and their families; or (iii) any nonpartisan registration and get-out-  
10 the-vote campaign by a corporation aimed at its stockholders and executive or administrative  
11 personnel and their families; (2) “filing date” shall mean January 1, April 1, July 1, and October  
12 1; (3) In this section, “reporting period” shall mean the period between the prior filing date and  
13 15 days before the next filing date.

14           (b) Any corporation which is subject to the requirements of this chapter and is not  
15 defined as a political committee by section 1 of chapter 55 that engages in political activity  
16 during the reporting period shall file a written report to its shareholders on the first filing date  
17 following the end of the reporting period during which the corporation engaged in political

activity. A copy of such written report shall be provided to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance in a form prescribed by the director. The director shall develop and distribute a form for filing such written reports. A report made pursuant to this subsection shall: (1) require an electronic signature from the treasurer at the time of the filing of the campaign finance report; (2) be made subject to the penalties for perjury; and (3) include (i) the date, amount and purpose of any political activity engaged in by the corporation or a separate segregated fund affiliated with the corporation and (ii) the identity of any candidate for state or local office referred to in any independent expenditure or electioneering communication made by the corporation or a separate segregated fund affiliated with the corporation. If this subsection requires a corporation to file more than one written report during a one-year period, such reports shall be cumulative during the calendar year to which they relate.

(c) Any corporation subject to the requirements of this chapter which is defined as a political committee by section 1 of chapter 55 must file with its shareholders the report filed under section 18 of Chapter 55. These reports shall be filed with the shareholders on the first filing date after the report is filed with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

(d) A copy of the reports filed under this section shall be posted immediately on the corporation's website, if any, and kept available for at least one year.

SECTION 3. Chapter 156B is hereby amended by inserting after section 54 the following new section:-

54A. Political Expenditures:--

(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no corporation, or trade, business, or professional association nor any other entity under this title shall make any campaign contribution or expenditure or combination of contributions or expenditures totaling an excess of \$5,000 unless specifically authorized to do so by the affirmative authorization of a majority of the board of directors of the corporation, of the executive committee of the trade, business, or professional association or similar body at a regular or special meeting thereof.

In addition, any corporation or trade, business, or professional association violating any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and any officer, director or agent of the corporation violating any provision thereof or authorizing such violation of any provision thereof, or any person who violates or in any way knowingly aids or abets the violation thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.