

HOUSE No. 2081

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 relative to limiting influence of foreign corporations in elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Dylan Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Leonard Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>

HOUSE No. 2081

By Mr. Cutler of Duxbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2081) of Josh S. Cutler and others relative to limiting influence of foreign corporations in elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to limiting influence of foreign corporations in elections.

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 1 of Chapter 55 is hereby amended by inserting the following
2 definitions:--

3 “Chief executive officer”, the highest-ranking officer or decision-making individual with
4 authority over the corporation’s affairs.

5 “Corporation”, a corporation, company, limited liability company, limited partnership,
6 business trust, business association, or other similar entity.

7 “Foreign national,” a foreign principal, or an individual who is not a citizen of the United
8 States or a national of the United States and who is not lawfully admitted for permanent
9 residence.

10 “Foreign owner”, a foreign national or a corporation wherein a foreign national holds,
11 owns, controls, or otherwise has directly or indirectly acquired beneficial ownership of equity or

12 voting shares in an amount that is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total equity or
13 outstanding voting shares.

14 “Foreign-influenced corporation”, a corporation for which (1) a foreign owner holds,
15 owns, controls, or otherwise has directly or indirectly acquired beneficial ownership of equity or
16 voting shares in an amount that is equal to or greater than 5 percent of the total equity or
17 outstanding voting shares; or (2) foreign owners hold, own, control, or otherwise have directly or
18 indirectly acquired beneficial ownership of equity or voting shares in an amount that is equal to
19 or greater than 20 percent of the total equity or outstanding voting shares.

20 “Foreign principal”, a government of a foreign country, or a foreign political party, or a
21 partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons organized
22 under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country.

23 SECTION 2: Section 8 of said chapter 55 is hereby amended by inserting after the second
24 paragraph the following new paragraphs:--

25 No foreign-influenced corporation shall make an independent expenditure, or an
26 electioneering communication expenditure, or a contribution to an independent expenditure PAC
27 as defined in section 18A.

28 Any corporation that makes an independent expenditure, or an electioneering
29 communication expenditure, or a contribution to an independent expenditure PAC as defined in
30 section 18A, shall, within 7 business days after making such expenditure or contribution, file
31 with the director, a statement of certification, signed by the chief executive officer under penalty
32 of perjury, avowing that, after due inquiry, the corporation was not a foreign-influenced
33 corporation on the date such expenditure or contribution was made.

34 SECTION 3: Section 18G of chapter 55 is further amended by inserting after the second
35 sentence of paragraph two the following:--

36 Unless the individual, corporation, group, association, labor union or other entity making
37 the independent expenditure or electioneering communication has received a statement of
38 certification from each person or entity required to be listed in the top contributors, avowing
39 under penalty of perjury that none of the funds used to make each such person or entity's
40 contribution were derived from foreign-influenced corporations, the advertisement or
41 communication shall also include the statement: "Some of the funds used to pay for this message
42 may have been provided by foreign-influenced corporations" or alternatively "May be partly
43 funded by foreign-influenced corporations." The individual, corporation, group, association,
44 labor union or other entity making the independent expenditure or electioneering communication
45 shall be entitled to rely such a statement of certification provided by the contributor, unless the
46 individual, corporation, group, association, labor union or other entity has actual knowledge that
47 such certification is false.