

HOUSE No. 868

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel J. Ryan

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 campaign finance reporting by state ballot question committees.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2025</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/23/2025</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>6/23/2025</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/24/2025</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/26/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>6/26/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>7/28/2025</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/28/2025</i>
<i>Simon Cataldo</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/28/2025</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>7/28/2025</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>7/29/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>7/29/2025</i>

Natalie M. Blais

1st Franklin

8/19/2025

HOUSE No. 868

By Representative Ryan of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 868) of Daniel J. Ryan and others relative to campaign finance reporting by state ballot question committees. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act improving campaign finance reporting by state ballot question committees.

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 of the General Laws, as as appearing in the 2024
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Independent
3 expenditure” the following definition:-

4 “In-kind contribution”, anything of value that is provided to a committee or candidate in
5 a non-monetary form, including but not limited to: (1) the value of goods or services provided
6 free of charge; (2) the difference between the cost charged and the usual market value charged;
7 or (3) the amount paid by a person or entity on behalf of the committee or candidate.

8 SECTION 2. Paragraph (4) of subsection (a) section 18 of said chapter 55, as so
9 appearing, , is hereby amended by striking out the words “, independent expenditure PACs
10 organized pursuant to section 18A and political committees organized under the provisions of
11 section 5 to favor or oppose a question submitted to the voters, if the question appears on the

12 ballot at the state election” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- and independent
13 expenditure PACs organized pursuant to section 18A.

14 SECTION 3. Said subsection (a) said section 18 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is
15 hereby further amended by striking out paragraph (5).

16 SECTION 4. Subsection (a) of section 19 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby
17 amended by inserting after the words “aforesaid candidates” the following words:- , the treasurer
18 of each ballot question committee, if the question appears on the ballot at the state election.

19 SECTION 5. Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of said section 19 of said chapter 55, as so
20 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence;- In addition, a ballot question
21 committee, if the question appears on the ballot at the state election, shall include the following
22 information: (i) a list of all in-kind contributions of more than \$50 received as of the last day of
23 the preceding month and since the last statement, including an alphabetical list of names and
24 addresses of each person making such contribution, the date received, the type of in-kind
25 contribution and the value of the in-kind contribution; and (ii) a list of new liabilities incurred as
26 of the last day of the preceding month, including the name and address of the person to whom
27 the liability exists, together with a clear statement of purpose for which it was incurred.

28 SECTION 6. Section 22 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
29 striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

30 If the question appears on the ballot at the state election, the report shall be filed with the
31 director as follows: (1) by the fifth day of each month covering the preceding month until the
32 sixtieth day before the election; (2) the sixtieth day before the election; (3) on or before the fifth
33 and twentieth day of each month, complete as of the preceding first and fifteenth day of the

34 month, until the election; (4) the twentieth day of November following the election, complete as
35 of the fifteenth day of the month; and (5) the twentieth day of January of each year, complete as
36 of December 31 of the prior year, until all declared liabilities of that person or corporation,
37 association, organization or other group of persons have been discharged.