

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Donaghue

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 municipal lobbying.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Donaghue</i>	<i>19th Worcester</i>	<i>1/8/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3020 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to municipal lobbying.

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 39 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after line 99, the following definition:-

3 “Covered municipal official”, a mayor, city manager, city councilor, member of the board
4 of alderman, school committee member or municipal department head in a city having more than
5 150,000 inhabitants as of the most recent federal census.”, and further;

6 By inserting after line 169, the following definitions:- ““Municipal agent”, a person who
7 for compensation or reward engages in municipal lobbying which includes at least 1 lobbying
8 communication with a government employee made by said person. The term “municipal agent”
9 shall include a person who, as part of his regular and usual business or professional activities and
10 not simply incidental thereto, engages in legislative municipal lobbying, whether or not any
11 compensation in addition to the salary for such activities is received for such services. For

12 purposes of this definition a person shall be presumed to be engaged in municipal lobbying that
13 is simply incidental to his regular and usual business or professional activities if he or she: (i)
14 engages in municipal lobbying for not more than 25 hours during any reporting period; and (ii)
15 receives less than \$2,500 during any reporting period for legislative lobbying.

16 “Municipal lobbying”, any act to promote, oppose, influence, or attempt to influence the
17 decision of any covered municipal official, where such decision concerns any ordinance
18 proposed or change to an adopted ordinance, action or vote of a covered municipal official or the
19 adoption, repeal, amendment or postponement of a standard, rate, rule, regulation or appointment
20 within a covered municipal official’s direct jurisdiction or the approval, modification or
21 disapproval of any formal action by a covered municipal.”

22 SECTION 2. Section 41 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
23 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “legislative agents” in line 7 the
24 following words:- “, municipal agents”.

25 SECTION 3. Section 41 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
26 Official Edition, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “legislative” in line 9 the
27 following word:- “, municipal”.

28 SECTION 4. Section 41 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
29 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “legislative agent” in line 20 the
30 following words:- “, municipal agent”.

31 SECTION 5. Section 41 of chapter 3 of the General, as appearing in the 2020 Official
32 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “legislative agent” in line 25 the
33 following words :- “, municipal agent”.

34 SECTION 6. Section 41 of chapter 3 of the General, as appearing in the 2020 Official
35 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “legislative agent” in line 31 the
36 following words :- “, municipal agent”.

37 SECTION 7. Section 41 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
38 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following sentence after the second sentence
39 in line 5:- The state secretary shall assess each municipal agent an annual filing fee of \$50 upon
40 entering the agent’s name on the docket.

41 SECTION 8. Section 41 of chapter 3 of the General, as appearing in the 2020 Official
42 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “legislative agent” in lines 48 and 49 the
43 following words :- “, municipal agent”.

44 SECTION 9. Section 42 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
45 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following sentence at the end of the first
46 paragraph in line 8:-

47 No person shall agree to engage in municipal lobbying for consideration to be paid upon
48 the contingency of the outcome of the actions described in the definition of “municipal
49 lobbying.”

50 SECTION 10. Section 43 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
51 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following new sentence after the first
52 sentence of the first paragraph in line 29:-

53 On or before the fifteenth day of July, complete from January first through June thirtieth;
54 and the fifteenth day of January, complete from July first to December thirty-first of the

55 preceding year, every municipal agent shall render to the state secretary an itemized statement,
56 under oath, listing all campaign contributions as defined in section one of chapter fifty-five; all
57 expenditures, and the total amount thereof, incurred, contributed or paid during the reporting
58 period in the course of his employment as a municipal agent and all expenditures made for or on
59 behalf of covered municipal officials incurred or paid during the reporting period, except that the
60 municipal agent shall not be required to report such expenditures not in the course of his
61 employment made for or on behalf of the immediate family of such municipal agent or a relative
62 within the third degree of consanguinity of the municipal agent or of his or her spouse or the
63 spouse of any such relative; and except that in the case of all expenditures the municipal agent
64 shall not be required to itemize the expenditures of any one day in which the amount incurred or
65 paid did not total thirty-five dollars or more.

66 SECTION 11. Section 43 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
67 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the first sentence of the third paragraph contained
68 in lines 41 to 54, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following text:

69 Every legislative agent, municipal agent and executive agent shall include in the
70 statement required by this section for the relevant reporting period: (1) the identification of each
71 client for whom the legislative, municipal or executive agent provided lobbying services; (2) a
72 list of all bill numbers and names of legislation and other governmental action that the executive,
73 municipal or legislative agent acted to promote, oppose or influence; (3) a statement of the
74 executive, municipal or legislative agent's position, if any, on each such bill or other
75 governmental action; (4) the identification of the client or clients on whose behalf the executive,
76 municipal or legislative agent was acting with respect to each such bill or governmental action;
77 (5) the amount of compensation received for executive, municipal or legislative lobbying from

78 each client with respect to such lobbying services; and (6) all direct business associations with
79 public officials. The disclosure shall be required regardless of whether the legislative agent,
80 municipal agent or executive agent specifically referenced the bill number or name, or other
81 governmental action while acting to promote, oppose or influence legislation, and shall be as
82 complete as practicable.

83 SECTION 12. Section 43 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
84 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “executive” in line 60 the
85 following word:- “, municipal”.

86 SECTION 13. Section 43 of chapter 3 of the General, as appearing in the 2020 Official
87 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “executive” in line 67 the following
88 word:- “, municipal”.

89 SECTION 14. Section 43 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
90 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “executive” in line 77 the
91 following word:- “, municipal”.

92 SECTION 15. Section 44 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
93 inserting the following new sentence after the first sentence in line 26 of the first paragraph:-

94 On or before the fifteenth day of July, complete from January first through June thirtieth;
95 and the fifteenth day of January, complete from July first to December thirty-first of the
96 preceding year, any group or organization, however constituted, not employing a municipal
97 agent which as part of an organized effort, expends in excess of two hundred and fifty dollars
98 during any calendar year to promote, oppose, or influence municipal governmental action, or to
99 influence the decision of any officer or employee of a covered municipal official, where such

100 decision concern the adoption, defeat or postponement of a standard, rate, rule or regulation
101 pursuant thereto, or to do any act to communicate directly with a covered municipal official to
102 influence a decision concerning policy or procurement shall register with the state secretary by
103 rendering a statement, under oath, containing the names and addresses of the principals of such
104 group or organization, the purposes of the organization, such aforesaid decisions of such
105 employees of the executive branch or an authority or legislation which affects those purposes,
106 the total amount of expenditures, incurred or paid during the reporting period in furtherance of
107 the foregoing objectives and an itemized statement containing all expenditures made for or on
108 behalf of covered municipal officials and employees of such offices.

109 SECTION 16. Section 44 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
110 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “executive” in line 56 the
111 following word:- “, municipal”.

112 SECTION 17. Section 44 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
113 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the text contained in the last paragraph in lines
114 62 to 76, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

115 This section shall not apply to any group or organization that (i) does not employ an
116 executive, municipal or legislative agent; (ii) does not realize a profit; (iii) does not make a
117 contribution, as defined in section one of chapter fifty-five, to a political candidate or committee;
118 (iv) does not pay a salary or fee to any member for any activities performed for the benefit of the
119 group or organization; and (v) expends two thousand dollars or less during any calendar year to
120 promote, oppose, or influence legislation, or the governor's veto or approval thereof, or to
121 influence the decision of any officer or employee of the executive branch or an authority,

122 including, but not limited to, statewide constitutional officers and employees thereof, or a
123 covered municipal official and employees thereof, where such decision concerns legislation or
124 the adoption, defeat or postponement of a standard, rate, rule or regulation pursuant thereto or
125 other government action, or to do any act to communicate directly with a covered executive
126 official or covered municipal official to influence a decision concerning policy or procurement.

127 SECTION 18. Section 45 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
128 inserting the following the words in the subsection (d) after the words “executive lobbying”:- ,
129 municipal lobbying.

130 SECTION 19. Section 45 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
131 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “executive” in line 96 the
132 following word:- “, municipal”.

133 SECTION 20. Section 46 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
134 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “executive” in line 1 the
135 following word:- “, municipal”.

136 SECTION 21. Section 47 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
137 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence contained in lines 1 to 25,
138 inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following text:

139 “On or before the fifteenth day of July, complete from January first through June
140 thirtieth; and the fifteenth day of January, complete from July first to December thirty-first of the
141 preceding year, every employer of an executive, municipal or legislative agent shall render to the
142 state secretary a complete and detailed itemized statement, under oath, listing all expenditures
143 incurred or paid separately by such employer during the reporting period in connection with

144 promoting, opposing or influencing legislation, or the governor's approval or veto thereof, or
145 influencing the decision of any officer or employee of the executive branch or an authority,
146 including, but not limited to, statewide constitutional officers and employees thereof, or a
147 covered municipal official and employees thereof, where such decision concerns legislation or
148 the adoption, defeat or postponement of a standard, rate, rule or regulation pursuant thereto or
149 other government action, or to do any act to communicate directly with a covered executive
150 official or covered municipal official to influence a decision concerning policy or procurement
151 and all expenditures for or on behalf of the statewide constitutional officers, officers and
152 employees of such offices, members of the general court, officers and employees of the general
153 court, officers and employees of the executive branch and officers and employees of an
154 authority, covered municipal officials and any employees thereof and the total amount thereof
155 incurred or paid separately by such employer during the reporting period; and except that in the
156 case of all expenditures the employer shall not be required to itemize the expenditures of any one
157 day in which the amount incurred or paid did not total thirty-five dollars or more.”

158 SECTION 22. Section 47 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
159 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “executive” in line 47 the
160 following word:- “, municipal”.

161 SECTION 23. Section 48 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
162 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “executive” in lines 6 and 8, as it
163 appears in each instance, the following word:- “, municipal”.