

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James H. Fagan

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the collection of signatures for initiative and referendum petitions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James H. Fagan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

3rd Bristol

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 643 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE COLLECTION OF SIGNATURES FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS.

*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 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 22A the following section:—
3 Section 22A½. Any person who collects, or attempts to collect, signatures for an initiative or referendum petition
4 shall, at all times he is actively engaged in such activity wear a sticker, button, or other similar such marking on a
5 conspicuous place on the outer layer of his clothing readily visible to persons being solicited. All words on such
6 sticker, button, or other similar marking shall be in at least 14-point type size. Such sticker, button, or other similar
7 marking shall contain at least the following information: (a) the first and last names of the person soliciting
8 signatures; (b) the full name of the person, corporation, organization, committee, or other entity on behalf of whom
9 the person is soliciting signatures; (c) the full names of all persons, corporations, organizations, committees, or other
10 entities hired or retained by the entity named in (b) above for the purpose of obtaining signatures; and (d) a
11 statement disclosing how much, if any, compensation the person is receiving for soliciting signatures, provided,
12 however, that if said person is compensated on a per-signature basis, the statement shall read “I am being paid \$
13 (insert amount) for each signature I collect,” and provided further, that if said person is compensated on an hourly
14 basis, that statement shall read “I am being paid \$(insert amount) per hour to collect these signatures.” Any person
15 who collects, or attempts to collect, signatures for an incentive or referendum petition, and who fails to comply with
16 the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, and in addition, the
17 person, corporation, organization, committee, or other entity on behalf of whom the person is soliciting signatures
18 shall also be punished by a fine of not less than five thousand dollars for each individual violation. The secretary of
19 state may promulgate rules and regulations interpreting the provisions of this section.