

HOUSE No. 543

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Garrett J. Bradley

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 enhanced disclosure of top-five contributors information.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Garrett J. Bradley</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>

<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 543

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 543) of Garrett J. Bradley and others relative to disclosures by individuals or entities making independent expenditures for electioneering communications. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to enhanced disclosure of top-five contributors information.

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 18G of chapter 55 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 210
2 of the Acts of 2014 is amended by striking the section and inserting the following in its place:-

3 Section 18G. An independent expenditure or electioneering communication which is
4 transmitted through paid radio, television or internet advertising shall include a statement
5 disclosing the identity of the individual, corporation, group or association paying for the
6 advertisement. If the independent expenditure or electioneering communication is a radio or
7 television advertisement, the advertisement shall include a statement by the individual paying for
8 the advertisement in which the person acknowledges that he paid for the message and his city or
9 town of residence. If the radio or television advertisement is paid for by a corporation, group,
10 association or a labor union, the following statement shall be made by the chief executive officer
11 of the corporation, the chairman or principal officer of the group or association or the chief
12 executive or business manager of a labor union: "I am _____ (name) the

13 _____ (office held) of _____ (name of corporation,
14 group, association or labor union) and _____ (name of corporation, group, association
15 or labor union) approves and paid for this message." Such statements in television
16 advertisements shall be conveyed by an unobscured, full-screen view of the person making the
17 statement. If an independent expenditure or electioneering communication is transmitted through
18 internet advertising, the statement shall appear in a clearly readable manner with a reasonable
19 degree of color contrast between the background and the printed statement.

20 An independent expenditure or electioneering communication which is transmitted
21 through paid television, internet advertising or print advertising appearing larger than 15 square
22 inches, or direct mail or billboard shall include a written statement at the bottom of the
23 advertisement or mailing that contains the words "Top Contributors" and a written statement that
24 lists the 5 persons or entities or, if fewer than 5 persons or entities, all such persons or entities,
25 that made the largest contributions, to that entity, regardless of the purpose for which the funds
26 were given; provided, however, that only contributions in excess of \$5,000 reportable under this
27 chapter during the 12-month period before the date of the advertisement or communication shall
28 be listed. If no such contribution is received by the entity making an independent expenditure or
29 electioneering communication, the advertisement or communication may exclude the statement.
30 The advertisement or communication shall also include a written statement, as specified by the
31 director, at the bottom of the advertisement or communication that directs viewers to the official
32 web address of the office of campaign and political finance. This paragraph shall also apply to
33 advertisements or communications purchased to influence or affect the vote on any question
34 submitted to the voters.

35 Whoever violates this section shall be punished by imprisonment in the house of
36 correction for not more than 1 year or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.