

HOUSE No. 571

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