

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 643**

By Mr. Fagan of Taunton, petition of James H. Fagan relative to the collection of signatures for initiative and referendum petitions. Election Laws.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

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 2004 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 22A the  
3 following section:—

4 Section 22A½. Any person who collects, or attempts to collect,  
5 signatures for an initiative or referendum petition shall, at all times  
6 he is actively engaged in such activity wear a sticker, button, or  
7 other similar such marking on a conspicuous place on the outer layer  
8 of his clothing readily visible to persons being solicited. All words  
9 on such sticker, button, or other similar marking shall be in at least  
10 14-point type size. Such sticker, button, or other similar marking  
11 shall contain at least the following information:—

- 12 (a) the first and last names of the person soliciting signatures;
- 13 (b) the full name of the person, corporation, organization, com-  
14 mittee, or other entity on behalf of whom the person is soliciting sig-  
15 natures;
- 16 (c) the full names of all persons, corporations, organizations,  
17 committees, or other entities hired or retained by the entity named in  
18 (b) above for the purpose of obtaining signatures; and
- 19 (d) a statement disclosing how much, if any, compensation the  
20 person is receiving for soliciting signatures, provided, however, that  
21 if said person is compensated on a per-signature basis, the statement  
22 shall read “I am being paid \$ (insert amount) for each signature I  
23 collect,” and provided further, that if said person is compensated on  
24 an hourly basis, that statement shall read “I am being paid \$(insert

25 amount) per hour to collect these signatures.” Any person who col-  
26 lects, or attempts to collect, signatures for an incentive or refer-  
27 endum petition, and who fails to comply with the provisions of this  
28 section shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred  
29 dollars, and in addition, the person, corporation, organization, com-  
30 mittee, or other entity on behalf of whom the person is soliciting sig-  
31 natures shall also be punished by a fine of not less than five  
32 thousand dollars for each individual violation. The secretary of state  
33 may promulgate rules and regulations interpreting the provisions of  
34 this section.