

HOUSE No. 668

By Mr. Kaufman of Lexington, petition of Jay R. Kaufman and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the impact of campaign financing on citizen participation in politics and the number of candidates for political office. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Jay R. Kaufman	Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.
Alice K. Wolf	John W. Scibak
Peter V. Kocot	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Matthew C. Patrick	William Lantigua
Bruce E. Tarr	Stephen Kulik

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

RESOLVE TO ENHANCE PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY.

1 *Resolved*, There is hereby established a special commission to
2 study the financing of political campaigns, the impact thereof on cit-
3 izen participation in politics and on the number of candidates run-
4 ning for political office, and to make recommendations to the
5 Governor and to the General Court as to what laws, regulations, or
6 programs should be enacted to address these or other issues identi-
7 fied by the commission.

8 The commission shall consist of the Governor and/or his designee
9 who shall serve as chair, two members of the House of Representa-
10 tives appointed by the Speaker of the House, two members of the
11 Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, the Secretary of the
12 Commonwealth or his designee, the Director of the Office of Cam-
13 paign Finance or his designee, and six members named by the Gov-
14 ernor, including one selected from a list submitted by the
15 Democratic Party, one selected from a list submitted by the Repub-
16 lican party, one selected from a list submitted by the League of
17 Women Voters of Massachusetts, and one selected from a list sub-
18 mitted by Common Cause of Massachusetts.

19 The commission shall address questions including but not
20 limited to:—

21 What are the problems associated with the current method of
22 funding political campaigns? What reforms have been tried in the
23 Commonwealth and elsewhere to address those problems and to
24 what extent have they been successful in doing so? What programs,
25 laws, or regulations should be implemented to address current inade-
26 quacies, if any? What would be the cost associated with any recom-
27 mended strategies, and how should they be funded? How should the
28 impact and effectiveness of any proposed action be measured?
29 The commission shall file its report and recommendations, if any,
30 with the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the
31 House by December 15, 2007.