

Initiative Petition for a Constitutional Amendment Relative to Funding Legislators to Prevent Financial Influence on Votes

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority:

SECTION 1. Article IV of Chapter I, Section II, is hereby amended to insure the work of members of the General Court is reasonably supported so as to prevent the financial influence of other parties as follows: -

by adding the text

Any salary or bonus provided to members of the general court shall be equal among all members of the general court and shall not differ for reasons of seniority or leadership position, and may only be docked for reasons of leaving the position or failing to attend to reasonable duties. Any salary set must reflect a living wage. If the standard salary provided to the members of the general court fails to provide the members with a living wage, the members of the general court can provide an additional reimbursement to provide for child care, adult dependent care, and housing expenses.

Staffing specific to members of the general court, additional to any salary provided, must be the same among all members of the general court. All senators must have the same number and type of staff, just as all representatives must have the same number and type of staff -- and staff members working for the member of the general court must be chosen by that member and cannot be removed by another member of the general court.

Where reimbursement occurs for mileage, postage, child care, or other expenses related to the general court, payment must be reimbursed by itemized receipt or based on a reasonable estimated payment that does not discriminate in favor of or against any member of the general court. If choosing an estimated payment for expenses, payment for members whose primary residence is located at a distance that is equal to or less than 50 miles from the state house, \$15,000; and for members whose primary residence is located at a distance that is greater than 50 miles from the state house, \$20,000 which shall be annually increased according to interest rates.

The finances of the members of the general court are a public concern and information shall be collected and shared with the public by the state auditor of the executive branch to assure integrity.

Members of the general court may not receive a cancellation of debt unless approved by a joint committee on ethics of the general court, and any approval, the parties involved, and the reasons therefore must be made public. To prevent the influence legislation through real estate sales, if property is transferred during the year, a description of the property in which a direct or indirect financial interest was or is held and the name and address of the person

- 1. AB
- 2. AW
- 3. BL
- 4. CL
- 5. SA
- 6. JD
- 7. DO
- 8. AM
- 9. FA
- 10. JW
- 11. AB
- 12. AW
- 13. CM
- 14. JC

providing or receiving it in respect to such transfer must be provided for review to the state auditor and reported to the joint committee on ethics of the general court.

The members of the general court shall not be employed or receive income from any other source, but may receive unearned or passive income from securities and other investments, with the provision that securities and similar investments be placed in a blind trust or into a general fund to reduce potential conflicts of interest.

Members of the general court may not receive anything of monetary value, including in future tense, from anyone seeking to obtain government business in relation to the member, as well as from anyone who conducts activities that are regulated by the member and from anyone who has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the member's duties.

The undersigned qualified voters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have personally reviewed the final text of this initiative petition, fully subscribe to its contents, agree to be one of its original signers and have signaled that agreement by initialing each page, and hereby submit the measure for approval by the people pursuant to Article 48 of the articles of amendment of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as amended by Article 74 of said articles of amendment.

1. Hypatia Beatty - I sign with the pg-1 change 'by adding the text'
2. [Signature]
3. Beverly Cook
4. [Signature]
5. [Signature]
6. [Signature]
7. Darlene Punt
8. Alyson Myrick
9. Patricia A. Freeman
10. Janice M. B.
11. Avelie Beatty Bruno
12. Ameli Wilson
13. Charles R. Beatty

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14. Joseph Chandler