

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

HOUSE, NO. 4133 – TO IMPROVE THE LAWS RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE ETHICS AND LOBBYING

To: Professor Kealy

From: Dan Flaherty and Avni Patel

Re: Legislative History of House, No. 4133

Date: September 30, 2009

I. Process

In order to collect a comprehensive legislative history for House, No. 4133 – To improve the laws relating to campaign finance ethics and lobbying, we understood that we should focus on the Bill Summary and the primary dates included. The dates that the bill was debated, introduced, considered and finally voted upon gave us a starting point to begin our research. Once we obtained the initial floor transcripts, we searched further for the agenda and committee minutes. We additionally found conference committee reports. We also looked for and obtained several interest groups and announcements advocating for the bill. We searched several news databases and articles for any commentary or discussion surrounding the bill. After the bill was passed, the Office of the Governor released announcements and summaries of the bill and its impact; we collected those as well.

Overall, the legislative history of this ethics in lobbying bill, House, No. 4133 centers around June 25, 2009 when it was introduced, discussed and voted upon. We feel that the collection of documents we compiled gives the general overview of debate and discussion surrounding the newly enacted bill.

II. Included Documents

- a. **Bill Summary** – The Bill Summary offers a schedule of the House and Senate Committee’s general debate and procedure regarding the proposed bill. It is itemized by date and includes the vote tallies. It was obtained from mass.gov/legis
- b. **March 31, 2009** – News article regarding Representative Lewis’ advocating for the passing of the bill. The item is a press release discussing the impact of the bill, what it would expand upon and asserting his support for the bill.
- c. **June 4, 2009** – Provider’s Counsel (interest group) c/o Michael Weekes, President wrote to Senator Berry in support of the bill. Mr. Weekes sent copies of the letter to all of the committee members, including Peter Kocot, the bill sponsor. The letter advocates the interest and support of all small businesses and non-for profits, especially those with 501(c)(3) status. The letter is joined by the groups press release announcing its support of the bill.
- d. **June 24, 2009** – The first day documented on the official bill summary. The House reported on the bill, and the matter was placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting (June 25, 2009)
 - i. **Journal of the House** – Minutes and Agenda of the Committee meeting
- e. **June 25, 2009** – Debate over the bill in both the House and the Senate occurred on June 25, 2009. The bill was introduced for consideration and was voted upon. The Bill Summary indicates that the final vote was 157 Yea to 0 Nays in the House, and 40 Yeas to 0 Nays in the Senate.
 - i. **House Session, June 25, 2009 Transcript** – The verbatim transcript was obtained from statehousenews.com.
 - ii. **Journal of the House, June 25, 2009 Summarized Agenda** – Obtained from mass.gov/legis
 - iii. **Senate Session, June 25, 2009 Transcript** – The verbatim transcript was obtained from statehousenews.com.
 - iv. **Journal of the Senate, June 25, 2009 Summarized Agenda** – Obtained from mass.gov/legis
 - v. **Ethics Conference Committee Report** – The Conference Committee Report offers an itemized Section-by-Section analysis of what was included in the bill. It offers an overall summary of the ethics in lobbying bill, including all the amendments offered by the bill.

vi. **Boston Globe, *Leaders approve ethics revamp; House, Senate to vote today; Bill would bar most gifts*** – the Article discusses the implementation of the new bill and the process the House and Senate will go through to vote on the bill. It discusses the changes that the bill would make to lobbying and gift-giving tactics and procedures.

f. **June 30, 2009, Office of the Governor Press Release** – The press release announces that Governor Patrick signed the sweeping ethics in lobbying legislation, and how the new bill builds on the Governor's previous task force and ethics initiatives.

i. **Office of the Governor Bill Summary** – The office released a summarized overview of the bill, its future and present impact, and the stipulation codified in the new bill.

III. Unsuccessful Research Initiatives

We attempted to obtain other documents and primary sources. We search both LexisNexis and Westlaw in hopes of finding releases, news articles or commentary on the considered and newly passed legislation. Unfortunately, we were unable to find any articles that were not already collected from other sources. Additionally, we searched the Audio archives for any additional documentation of the floor debates. There were none published from the relevant dates. We contacted both the Senate and House Committees sponsoring and involved in the bill. We spoke with the Research Director for both committees requesting any additional documents, summaries, releases or committee member notes from the floor debates or research. Unfortunately, neither Committee has yet been able to provide us with any additional information.