



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

727-8352

AO-87-05A

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

May 20, 1987

Mr. Frank A. Emilio
State Representative
State House, Room 254
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Representative Emilio:

This is in response to your recent request for an advisory opinion concerning whether the campaign finance law would permit your political committee to purchase a set of the Massachusetts General Laws for use in your State House Office.

M.G.L.c.55, s.6 provides that political committees such as yours may make expenditures "for the enhancement of the political future of the candidate or the principle for which the committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use..." Therefore, in order for a political committee to purchase any item, its ultimate purpose must be for use in one's political campaign. In Advisory Opinion 86-02, I concluded that a political committee could expend funds to purchase a computer system to maintain records of constituency calls, services and results of constituency inquiries, provided that the primary purpose of maintaining such records would be for their subsequent use in one's political campaign.

You explicitly state in your letter that your interest in purchasing the general laws is to aid you in your job as a State Representative. It does not appear that such books would be of any significant use in any political campaign. I believe that there is often a distinction between one's responsibilities as a public official, and one's activities as a political candidate, and various provisions in the law consider that distinction. While your political committee may purchase items related to your political activities, it is my opinion that it may not purchase items where the primary purpose of the item is to aid you in your governmental job. Therefore, I must conclude that your political committee may not

Page 2

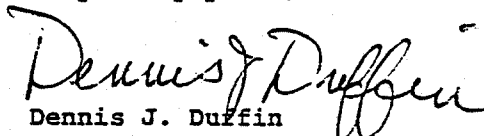
AO-87-05

Mr. Frank A. Emilio

expend funds to purchase a set of the Massachusetts General Laws for use in your responsibilities as a State Representative.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Very truly yours,


Dennis J. Duffin
Director

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