

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 284

6
7 H.P. 243

House of Representatives, January 30, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Handy of Lewiston.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Reeves of Pittston, Representative
Stevenson of Unity and Senator Matthews of Kennebec.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Limit Contributions which
18 Candidates may Receive from Political
19 Action Committees.
20

21 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
22 follows:

23 Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §1395-A is enacted to read:

24 §1395-A. Limitations on receipts from political ac-
25 tion committees

26 The amount of aggregate contributions which a
27 candidate may receive in support of his campaign from
28 all political action committees, as defined in sec-
29 tion 1552, is limited, as provided in this section.

30 1. Candidates. Candidates are limited as fol-
31 lows.

32 A. A candidate for Governor is limited to a to-
33 tal of \$45,000 in contributions from all politi-
34 cal action committees.

1 B. A candidate for the Senate is limited to a
2 total of \$1,000 in contributions from all politi-
3 cal action committees.

4 C. A candidate for Representative to the Legis-
5 lature is limited to a total of \$500 in contribu-
6 tions from all political action committees.

7 D. A candidate for other state elective office
8 is limited to a total of \$250 in contributions
9 from all political action committees.

10 2. Inflation factor. The limitations imposed by
11 this section shall be adjusted by an inflation factor
12 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. This
13 inflation factor is determined by dividing the Con-
14 sumer Price Index for the year in which contributions
15 are made by the Consumer Price Index for 1984. The
16 resulting quotient is then multiplied by the limita-
17 tion imposed by this section and rounded off to the
18 nearest \$50 increment to determine the new limitation
19 for that year. The Consumer Price Index for urban
20 wage earners and clerical workers, for all items,
21 using the 1967 base of 100, compiled by the United
22 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statis-
23 tics, shall be used for the computations described in
24 this subsection. The Commission on Governmental Eth-
25 ics and Election Practices shall compute and advise
26 candidates of the limitations imposed by this sec-
27 tion.

28 3. Political parties. The limitations provided
29 in this section do not apply to contributions made by
30 a party qualified to appear on the ballot in a pri-
31 mary or general election during the year in which the
32 contributions were made.

33 4. Fraudulent or misleading contributions. For
34 the purpose of the limitations imposed by this sec-
35 tion, section 1395, subsections 4 and 5, apply to
36 contributions or expenditures made by political ac-
37 tion committees.

38 Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take ef-
39 fect January 1, 1986.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill establishes a limit on total contribu-
3 tions which various candidates may accept from all
4 political action committees contributing to their
5 campaigns. The limit varies with the office being
6 sought. For the Office of Governor, the total con-
7 tributions which a candidate may receive from all po-
8 litical action committees is \$45,000; for State Sen-
9 ate \$1,000; for State Representative \$500; and for
10 any other state office \$250.

11 These limitations will be adjusted each election
12 year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index
13 so that the limits don't become outdated by inflation
14 over the years. Candidates will be advised of new
15 limits by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and
16 Election Practices.

17 The limitations imposed by this bill do not apply
18 to contributions made by political parties but do ap-
19 ply to contributions by political action committees
20 made through an intermediary or expenditures made by
21 political action committees on a candidate's behalf
22 with that candidate's consent or cooperation.

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