

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 256

I.B. 2

House of Representatives, February 16, 1989

Transmitted to the Clerk of the House of the 114th Maine Legislature by the Secretary of State on February 15, 1989. On Motion of Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs and 2,000 ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ed Pert'.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

An Act to Limit Spending and Contributions in Campaigns for
Governor.



1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

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5 **I. Campaign spending limits**

7 If a candidate for Governor agrees to accept matching funds
9 from the State, he or she and any committee controlled by the
11 candidate shall not spend any more than:

13 A. \$400,000 in the primary election;

15 B. \$600,000 in the general election.

17 **II. Campaign contribution limits**

19 A. A candidate who agrees to accept matching funds and any
21 committee controlled by the candidate may accept
23 contributions only from individual persons and is prohibited
25 from accepting contributions from any other source,
27 including corporations, political action committees or
29 associations of any kind.

31 B. A candidate who agrees to accept matching funds and his
33 or her spouse are prohibited from contributing more than
35 \$25,000 between them to the candidate's primary and general
37 election campaigns combined.

39 **III. Matching funds for small campaign contribution**

41 A. When a candidate for Governor registers his or her
43 campaign treasurer or committee, the candidate shall file a
45 statement accepting or rejecting matching funds.

47 B. To qualify for matching funds, the candidate must raise
49 at least \$25,000 in contributions from individuals who are
51 qualified to vote in the State of Maine. Only the first
\$250 from any individual may be counted for this purpose.

C. Once a candidate accepts and qualifies for matching
funds, all additional contributions shall be matched by the
State in the amount of \$2 for each \$1 received by the
candidate or any committee controlled by the candidate.
Only the first \$250 from any individual, per election, may
be counted for this purpose.

IV. Matching funds to come from state income tax checkoff

A. The matching funds shall come from a fund created by a
voluntary checkoff on the state personal income tax form.
The checkoff shall allow an individual taxpayer to assign to
this fund \$1 of his or her state tax due. Couples filing
jointly may assign \$2.

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B. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall actively promote the use of the checkoff as an exercise in good government, but if there is not enough money in the checkoff fund to provide matching funds, the balance shall come from the General Fund.

V. Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall administer this Act

A. The commission shall administer this Act, maintain proper records and promptly issue regulations to achieve its purposes.

B. Any person who violates any provision of this Act or any regulation promulgated under this Act:

(1) Shall be subject to a civil penalty payable to the State of not more than \$50,000;

(2) Shall be guilty of a Class E crime.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill creates a voluntary system of public financing for candidates for Governor.