

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 2224

H.P. 1577

House of Representatives, May 11, 1999

**An Act to Clarify the Definitions of "Contribution" and "Expenditure"  
under the Campaign Finance Laws.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joseph W. Mayo'.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Speaker ROWE of Portland.  
Cosponsored by President LAWRENCE of York and  
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Holden, MURPHY of Kennebunk, SAXL of Portland,  
SHIAH of Bowdoinham, Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, PINGREE of Knox, RAND of  
Cumberland.

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

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Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

B. Does not include:

(1) The value of services provided without compensation by individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political committee;

(2) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and beverages, voluntarily provided by an individual to a candidate in rendering voluntary personal services for candidate-related activities, if the cumulative value of these activities by the individual on behalf of any candidate does not exceed \$50 with respect to any election;

(3) The sale of any food or beverage by a vendor for use in a candidate's campaign at a charge less than the normal comparable charge, if the charge to the candidate is at least equal to the cost of the food or beverages to the vendor and if the cumulative value of the food or beverages does not exceed \$50 with respect to any election;

(4) Any unreimbursed travel expenses incurred and paid for by an individual who volunteers his personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of these expenses does not exceed \$50 with respect to any election; or

(5) The payment by a party's state, district, county or municipal committee of the costs of preparation, display or mailing or other distribution incurred by the committee with respect to a printed slate card, sample ballot or other printed listing of 3 or more candidates for any political office;

(6) Documents, in printed or electronic form, including party platforms, single copies of issue papers, information pertaining to the requirements of this Title and lists of registered voters, created or maintained by a political party for the general purpose of party building and provided to a candidate who is a member of that party;

2           (7) Compensation paid by a political party to an  
3           employee of that party for the following purposes:

4           (a) Providing advice to any one candidate for a  
5           period of no more than 20 hours in any election;

6           (b) Recruiting and overseeing volunteers for  
7           campaign activities involving 3 or more  
8           candidates; or

9           (c) Coordinating campaign events involving 3 or  
10           more candidates;

11           (8) Campaign training sessions provided to 3 or more  
12           candidates; or

13           (9) The use of offices, telephones, computers and  
14           similar equipment when that use does not result in  
15           additional cost to the provider.

16           **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§3, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 1985, c.  
17           161, §6, is amended to read:

18           B. Does not include:

19           (1) Any news story, commentary or editorial  
20           distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting  
21           station, newspaper, magazine or other periodical  
22           publication, unless the facilities are owned or  
23           controlled by any political party, political committee  
24           or candidate;

25           (2) ~~Nonpartisan--activity~~ Activity or communication  
26           designed to encourage individuals to register to vote  
27           or to vote if that activity or communication does not  
28           mention a clearly identified candidate;

29           (3) Any communication by any membership organization  
30           or corporation to its members or stockholders, if that  
31           membership organization or corporation is not organized  
32           primarily for the purpose of influencing the nomination  
33           or election of any person to state or county office;

34           (4) The use of real or personal property and the cost  
35           of invitations, food and beverages, voluntarily  
36           provided by an individual to a candidate in rendering  
37           voluntary personal services for candidate-related  
38           activities, if the cumulative value of these activities  
39           does not exceed \$50 with respect to any election;

2 (5) Any unreimbursed travel expenses incurred and paid  
4 for by an individual who volunteers his personal  
6 services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of  
8 these expenses does not exceed \$50 with respect to any  
10 election;

12 (6) Any communication by any person which that is not  
14 made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for  
16 election, or election, of any person to state or county  
18 office;

20 (7) The payment by a party's state, district, county  
22 or municipal committee of the costs of preparation,  
24 display or mailing or other distribution incurred by  
26 the committee with respect to a printed slate card or  
28 sample ballot, or other printed listing, of 3 or more  
30 candidates for any political office for which an  
32 election is held; or

34 (8) The use or distribution of any communication, as  
36 described in section 1014, prepared for a previous  
38 election and fully paid for during that election  
40 campaign which was not used or distributed in that  
42 previous election;

44 (9) Documents, in printed or electronic form,  
46 including party platforms, single copies of issue  
48 papers, information pertaining to the requirements of  
50 this Title and lists of registered voters, created or  
maintained by a political party for the general purpose  
of party building and provided to a candidate who is a  
member of that party;

(10) Compensation paid by a political party to an  
employee of that party for the following purposes:

36 (a) Providing advice to any one candidate for a  
38 period of no more than 20 hours in any election;

40 (b) Recruiting and overseeing volunteers for  
42 campaign activities involving 3 or more  
44 candidates; or

46 (c) Coordinating campaign events involving 3 or  
48 more candidates;

50 (11) Campaign training sessions provided to 3 or more  
candidates; or

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(12) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the provider.

**SUMMARY**

This bill clarifies what the definition of "contribution" does not include for the purposes of the law regarding campaign reports and finances. This bill also clarifies what the definition of "expenditure" does not include for the purposes of the law regarding campaign reports and finances. Under the bill neither contributions nor expenditures includes documents created or maintained by a political party for the general purposes of party building, certain compensation paid by a political party to an employee, campaign training sessions provided to 3 or more candidates or the use of office equipment that involves no additional cost to the provider.