

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1341

H.P. 950

House of Representatives, March 12, 2007

An Act To Clarify Restrictions on Accepting Campaign Contributions Laws

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLS of Farmington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1015, sub-§3, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 529, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 A. As used in this subsection, the terms "employer," "lobbyist" and "lobbyist
5 associate" have the same meanings as in Title 3, section 312-A ~~and the term~~ . As
6 used in this subsection, "contribution" has the same meaning as in Title 21-A, section
7 1012 and includes seed money contributions as defined in Title 21-A, section 1122,
8 subsection 9.

9 **Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §1015, sub-§3, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 301, §3, is
10 further amended to read:

11 B. The Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional officer or the
12 staff or agent of the Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional
13 officer may not intentionally solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist, lobbyist
14 associate or employer during the period from January 1st to June 15th or during any
15 period of time in which the Legislature is convened before final adjournment, except
16 for a qualifying contribution as defined under Title 21-A, section 1122, subsection 7.
17 A lobbyist, lobbyist associate or employer may not intentionally give, offer or
18 promise a contribution, other than a qualifying contribution, to the Governor, a
19 member of the Legislature or any constitutional officer or the staff or agent of the
20 Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional officer during any time
21 in which the Legislature is convened before final adjournment. These prohibitions
22 apply to direct and indirect solicitation, acceptance, giving, offering and promising,
23 whether through a political action committee, political committee, political party or
24 otherwise.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 The purpose of this bill is to make consistent restrictions on accepting campaign
27 contributions in the Maine Clean Election Act and the laws governing legislative ethics.
28 This bill clarifies that the restriction in the laws governing legislative ethics on accepting
29 contributions includes seed money contributions as defined in the Maine Clean Election
30 Act and extends the ban on accepting contributions from lobbyists during a second
31 regular session of the Legislature from adjournment until June 15th.