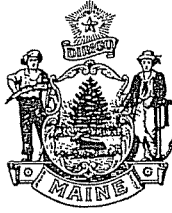


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 259

H.P. 205

House of Representatives, January 27, 2009

### An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GILES of Belfast.  
Cosponsored by Senator PLOWMAN of Penobscot and  
Representatives: CLEARY of Houlton, EDGECOMB of Caribou, McKANE of Newcastle,  
PILON of Saco, PRESCOTT of Topsham, SCHATZ of Blue Hill, TREAT of Hallowell,  
Senator: NUTTING of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§2, ¶B,** as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1, §17, is  
3 amended to read:

4 B. ~~One thousand five hundred~~ Two thousand dollars for a candidate for the State  
5 Senate; or

6 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§2, ¶C,** as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1, §17, is  
7 amended to read:

8 C. ~~Five hundred~~ Seven hundred fifty dollars for a candidate for the State House of  
9 Representatives.

10 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 571, §11, is  
11 further amended to read:

12 **3. Qualifying contributions.** Participating candidates must obtain qualifying  
13 contributions during the qualifying period as follows:

14 A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least 3,250 verified registered voters of this State  
15 must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate;

16 B. For a candidate for the State Senate, at least 150 verified registered voters from  
17 the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy by providing a  
18 qualifying contribution to that candidate; or

19 C. For a candidate for the State House of Representatives, at least 50 verified  
20 registered voters from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy  
21 by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate.

22 A payment, gift or anything of value may not be given in exchange for a qualifying  
23 contribution. A candidate may pay the fee for a money order that is a qualifying  
24 contribution in the amount of \$5 or \$10 as long as the donor making the qualifying  
25 contribution pays the \$5 or \$10 amount reflected on the money order. Any money order  
26 fees paid by a participating candidate must be paid for with seed money and reported in  
27 accordance with commission rules. A money order must be signed by the contributor to  
28 be a valid qualifying contribution. The commission may establish by routine technical  
29 rule, adopted in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, a procedure for a  
30 qualifying contribution to be made by a credit or debit transaction and by electronic funds  
31 transfer over the Internet. Records containing information provided by individuals who  
32 have made qualifying contributions over the Internet are confidential, except for the name  
33 of the individual making the contribution, the date of the contribution, the individual's  
34 residential address and the name and office sought of the candidate in whose support the  
35 contribution was made.

36 It is a violation of this chapter for a participating candidate or an agent of the participating  
37 candidate to misrepresent the purpose of soliciting qualifying contributions and obtaining  
38 the contributor's signed acknowledgement.

**SUMMARY**

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This bill increases the amount of seed money contributions that Maine Clean Election Act candidates may receive from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for candidates for the State Senate and from \$500 to \$750 for candidates for the State House of Representatives. The bill also allows qualifying contributions to be in the amount of \$5 or \$10.