MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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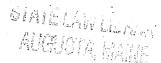
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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1420

H.P. 996

House of Representatives, April 7, 2009

An Act To Alter the Distribution of Maine Clean Election Act Funding to Gubernatorial Candidates

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

Millient M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAREY of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Representative: PIOTTI of Unity.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2 3	Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. F, §1 and c. 443, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:
5 6	A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least 3,250 750 verified registered voters of this State must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate;
7	Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	6. Restrictions on contributions and expenditures for certified candidates. After certification, a candidate must limit the candidate's campaign expenditures and obligations, including outstanding obligations, to the revenues distributed to the candidate from the fund and, except as provided in subsection 6-C, may not accept any contributions unless specifically authorized by the commission. Candidates may also accept and spend interest earned on fund revenues in campaign bank accounts. All revenues distributed to a certified candidate from the fund must be used for campaign-related purposes. The candidate, the treasurer, the candidate's committee authorized pursuant to section 1013-A, subsection 1 or any agent of the candidate and committee may not use these revenues for any but campaign-related purposes. The commission shall publish guidelines outlining permissible campaign-related expenditures.
20	Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6-C is enacted to read:
21 22 23 24 25 26	6-C. Additional contributions authorized; gubernatorial candidates. After certification pursuant to subsection 5, a gubernatorial candidate may continue to collect contributions in the amount of \$5 from verified registered voters in this State. A voter who provides a qualifying contribution during the qualifying period to a candidate in a contested primary may provide an additional \$5 contribution to that candidate after certification pursuant to this subsection.
27 28	Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 453, §1, is amended to read:
29 30 31 32	E. For gubernatorial primary elections, the amount of revenues distributed is \$200,000 an amount equal to \$55 for each qualifying contribution collected pursuant to subsection 3, paragraph A, up to a maximum of \$350,000 per candidate in the primary election.
33 34	Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8, ¶ F, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:
35 36 37 38	F. For gubernatorial general elections, the amount of revenues distributed is \$600,000 an amount equal to \$55 for each qualifying contribution collected pursuant to subsection 3, paragraph A if that amount was not distributed pursuant to paragraph

SUMMARY 2 This bill does the following. 3 1. It reduces from 3,250 to 750 the number of qualifying contributions required for a gubernatorial candidate to be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate. 4 5 2. It provides that a Maine Clean Election Act gubernatorial candidate may continue 6 to collect \$5 contributions from registered voters in the State. 7 3. It allows a voter who provides a \$5 qualifying contribution to a gubernatorial 8 candidate in a contested primary to provide an additional \$5 contribution to that candidate 9 after certification. 10 4. It provides that each \$5 qualifying contribution and each \$5 additional 11 contribution must be matched by a distribution of \$55 from the Maine Clean Election

5. It increases the distribution limits for gubernatorial primary elections from

\$200,000 to \$350,000 and for gubernatorial general elections from \$600,000 to \$750,000.

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Fund.