

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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.

Millicent 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 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3, ¶A,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. F,
3 §1 and c. 443, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

4 A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least ~~3,250~~ 750 verified registered voters of this
5 State must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that
6 candidate;

7 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. B, §6, is
8 further amended to read:

9 **6. Restrictions on contributions and expenditures for certified candidates.** After
10 certification, a candidate must limit the candidate's campaign expenditures and
11 obligations, including outstanding obligations, to the revenues distributed to the candidate
12 from the fund and, except as provided in subsection 6-C, may not accept any
13 contributions unless specifically authorized by the commission. Candidates may also
14 accept and spend interest earned on fund revenues in campaign bank accounts. All
15 revenues distributed to a certified candidate from the fund must be used for campaign-
16 related purposes. The candidate, the treasurer, the candidate's committee authorized
17 pursuant to section 1013-A, subsection 1 or any agent of the candidate and committee
18 may not use these revenues for any but campaign-related purposes. The commission
19 shall publish guidelines outlining permissible campaign-related expenditures.

20 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6-C** is enacted to read:

21 **6-C. Additional contributions authorized; gubernatorial candidates.** After
22 certification pursuant to subsection 5, a gubernatorial candidate may continue to collect
23 contributions in the amount of \$5 from verified registered voters in this State. A voter
24 who provides a qualifying contribution during the qualifying period to a candidate in a
25 contested primary may provide an additional \$5 contribution to that candidate after
26 certification pursuant to this subsection.

27 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8, ¶E,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 453, §1, is
28 amended to read:

29 E. For gubernatorial primary elections, the amount of revenues distributed is
30 \$200,000 an amount equal to \$55 for each qualifying contribution collected pursuant
31 to subsection 3, paragraph A, up to a maximum of \$350,000 per candidate in the
32 primary election.

33 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8, ¶F,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. B,
34 §6, is further amended to read:

35 F. For gubernatorial general elections, the amount of revenues distributed is
36 \$600,000 an amount equal to \$55 for each qualifying contribution collected pursuant
37 to subsection 3, paragraph A if that amount was not distributed pursuant to paragraph
38 E, plus an amount equal to \$55 for each additional \$5 contribution collected pursuant
39 to subsection 6-C, up to a maximum of \$750,000 per candidate in the general
40 election.

1

SUMMARY

2 This bill does the following.

3 1. It reduces from 3,250 to 750 the number of qualifying contributions required for a
4 gubernatorial candidate to be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

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
12 Fund.

13 5. It increases the distribution limits for gubernatorial primary elections from
14 \$200,000 to \$350,000 and for gubernatorial general elections from \$600,000 to \$750,000.