

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 719

H.P. 495

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

An Act To Provide Fair Access To Maine Clean Election Act Funds

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SUKEFORTH of Appleton.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMPBELL of Newfield, CHIPMAN of Portland,
EVANGELOS of Friendship.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§8, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 286, §5, is
3 further amended to read:

4 B. For State Senate or State House of Representatives participating candidates, the
5 qualifying period begins January 1st of the election year and ends at 5:00 p.m. on
6 April 20th of that election year or the next business day following April 20th if the
7 office of the commission is closed on April 20th, except that for State Senate or State
8 House of Representatives participating candidates who are unenrolled the qualifying
9 period begins January 1st of the election year and ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 30th of
10 that election year or the next business day following June 30th if the office of the
11 commission is closed on June 30th.

12 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§10,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 389, §56 and
13 affected by §62, is further amended to read:

14 **10. Candidate not enrolled in a party.** An unenrolled candidate for the Legislature
15 who submits the required number of qualifying contributions and other required
16 documents under subsection 4 by 5:00 p.m. on April 20th preceding the primary election
17 and who is certified is eligible for revenues from the fund in the same amounts and at the
18 same time as an uncontested primary election candidate ~~and a general election candidate~~
19 as specified in subsections 7 and 8-A. An unenrolled candidate for the Legislature who
20 submits the required number of qualifying contributions and other required documents
21 under subsection 4 by 5:00 p.m. on June 30th preceding the general election and who is
22 certified is eligible for revenues from the fund in the same amounts and at the same time
23 as a general election candidate as specified in subsections 7 and 8-A. Revenues for the
24 general election must be distributed to the candidate no later than 3 days after
25 certification. An unenrolled candidate for Governor who submits the required number of
26 qualifying contributions and other required documents under subsections 2-B and 4 by
27 5:00 p.m. on April 1st preceding the primary election and who is certified is eligible for
28 revenues from the fund in the same amounts and at the same time as an uncontested
29 primary election gubernatorial candidate and a general election gubernatorial candidate as
30 specified in subsections 7 and 8-A. Revenues for the general election must be distributed
31 to the candidate for Governor no later than 3 days after the primary election results are
32 certified.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 Under current law, candidates for the Legislature who are unenrolled in a political
35 party have until the April 20th preceding a primary election to submit the required
36 qualifying contributions and required documents in order to receive campaign financing
37 under the Maine Clean Election Act. This bill pushes that date back to June 30th.