

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 54

S.P. 18

In Senate, January 9, 2019

**An Act To Limit the Influence of Lobbyists by Expanding the
Prohibition on Accepting Political Contributions**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CHENETTE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative COLLINGS of Portland and
Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, MIRAMANT of Knox.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1015, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 286, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Campaign contributions and solicitations prohibited.** The following
5 provisions prohibit certain campaign contributions and solicitation of campaign
6 contributions ~~during a legislative session.~~

7 A. As used in this subsection, the terms "employer," "lobbyist" and "lobbyist
8 associate" have the same meanings as in Title 3, section 312-A. As used in this
9 subsection, "contribution" has the same meaning as in Title 21-A, section 1012 and
10 includes seed money contributions as defined in Title 21-A, section 1122, subsection
11 9.

12 B. The Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional officer or the
13 staff or agent of the Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional
14 officer may not intentionally solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist, lobbyist
15 associate or employer ~~during any period of time in which the Legislature is convened~~
16 ~~before final adjournment~~, except for a qualifying contribution as defined under Title
17 21-A, section 1122, subsection 7. A lobbyist, lobbyist associate or employer may not
18 intentionally give, offer or promise a contribution, other than a qualifying
19 contribution, to the Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional
20 officer or the staff or agent of the Governor, a member of the Legislature or any
21 constitutional officer ~~during any time in which the Legislature is convened before~~
22 ~~final adjournment~~. These prohibitions apply to contributions directly and indirectly
23 solicited or accepted by, or given, offered and promised to a political action
24 committee, ballot question committee or party committee of which the Governor, a
25 member of the Legislature, a constitutional officer or the staff or agent of these
26 officials is a treasurer, officer or primary fund-raiser or decision maker.

27 C. This subsection does not apply to:

28 (1) Solicitations or contributions for bona fide social events hosted for
29 nonpartisan, charitable purposes;

30 (2) Solicitations or contributions relating to a special election to fill a vacancy
31 from the time of announcement of the election until the election; and

32 (4) Solicitations or contributions accepted by a member of the Legislature
33 supporting that member's campaign for federal office.

34 C-1. This subsection does not prohibit the attendance of the Governor, a member of
35 the Legislature or any constitutional officer or the staff or agent of the Governor, a
36 member of the Legislature or any constitutional officer at fund-raising events held by
37 a municipal, county, state or national political party organized pursuant to Title 21-A,
38 chapter 5, nor the advertisement of the expected presence of any such official at any
39 such event, as long as any such official has no involvement in soliciting attendance at
40 the event and all proceeds are paid directly to the political party organization hosting
41 the event or a nonprofit charitable organization.

1 D. A person who intentionally violates this subsection is subject to a civil penalty not
2 to exceed \$1,000, payable to the State and recoverable in a civil action.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 Current law prohibits the Governor, members of the Legislature, constitutional
5 officers and the staff or agents of the Governor, members of the Legislature and
6 constitutional officers from soliciting or accepting contributions from a lobbyist, lobbyist
7 associate or employer while the Legislature is convened in session. This bill extends
8 application of that prohibition year-round, regardless of whether the Legislature is in
9 session.