

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1350

S.P. 567

In Senate, April 1, 2025

An Act to Ban Corporate Contributions to Candidates

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 28, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham and
Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, NANGLE of Cumberland, RENY of Lincoln, TEPLER of
Sagadahoc, Representatives: BECK of South Portland, GEIGER of Rockland, ROEDER of
Bangor, SKOLD of Portland.

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2-A, as repealed by PL 2023, c. 244, §6, is reenacted to read:

2-A. Contributions by business entities. A business entity may not make contributions to a candidate.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2-D, as enacted by IB 2023, c. 4, §2, is amended to read:

2-D. Contributions by political action committees and business entities to political action committees making independent expenditures. A leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus political action committee, any other political action committee or any business entity may not make contributions aggregating more than \$5,000 in any calendar year to a political action committee for the purpose of making independent expenditures under section 1019-B, subsection 1. Beginning December 1, 2024, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates. ~~For purposes of this subsection, "business entity" includes a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.~~

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§10, as repealed by PL 2023, c. 244, §8, is reenacted to read:

10. Business entity defined. For purposes of this section, "business entity" includes a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the campaign finance laws to prohibit a business entity from making contributions to candidates and defines "business entity."