

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1977 to July 25, 1977

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

PORTLAND LITHOGRAPH COMPANY
PORTLAND, MAINE
1977

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
of the
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
1977

CHAPTER 575

AN ACT Relating to Campaign Reports and Finances.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 4-A, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 591, § 2, is amended to read:

4-A. Candidate. "Candidate" means any person who has filed a petition pursuant to either sections 445 and 446 or sections 492 and 493 and has qualified as a candidate by either procedure or any person who has received contributions or made expenditures or has given his consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with the intent of qualifying as a candidate.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 1392, sub-§ 1-A, is enacted to read:

1-A. Clearly identified. "Clearly identified," with respect to a candidate, means that:

- A. The name of the candidate appears;
- B. A photograph or drawing of the candidate appears; or
- C. The identity of the candidate is apparent by unambiguous reference.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 1392, sub-§ 2, ¶ A, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is amended to read:

A. A gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value, except a loan of money to a candidate by a financial institution in this State made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business, made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state or county office or for the purpose of liquidating any campaign deficit of a candidate;

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA § 1392, sub-§ 2, ¶ E, sub-¶ (5), as enacted by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is amended to read:

(5) The payment by a state, district, county or ~~local~~ municipal committee of a ~~political~~ party of the costs of preparation, display or mailing or other distribution incurred by such committee with respect to a printed slate card, sample ballot or other printed listing of 3 or more candidates for any political office.

Sec. 5. 21 MRSA § 1392, sub-§ 4, ¶ C, sub-¶ (7), as enacted by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is amended to read:

(7) The payment by a state, district, county or ~~local~~ municipal committee of a ~~political~~ party of the costs of preparation, display or mailing

or other distribution incurred by such committee with respect to a printed slate card or sample ballot, or other printed listing, of 3 or more candidates for any political office for which an election is held; or

Sec. 6. 21 MRSA § 1393, sub-§ 4 is enacted to read:

4. Party committees. The state, district and county committees of parties shall submit to the commission the names and addresses of all their officers and of their treasurers and the name and address of the principal paid employee, if any, within 30 days after the appointment, election or hiring of such persons.

The municipal committees of parties shall, on or before April 30th of each year in which a general election is held, submit to the commission the names and addresses of their chairmen, secretaries and treasurers. Thereafter, each municipal committee shall file an updating statement with the commission within 30 days of any addition, deletion or change to this information.

The state committee of a party may submit a consolidated report including the required information for the district, county and municipal committees of that party.

Sec. 7. 21 MRSA § 1394, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1394. Publication or distribution of political statements

Whenever any person makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing communications expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate through broadcasting stations, newspapers, magazines, outdoor advertising facilities, direct mails and other similar types of general public political advertising and through flyers, handbills, bumper stickers and other nonperiodical publications, such communication, if authorized by a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or their agents, shall clearly and conspicuously state that the communication has been so authorized and shall clearly state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication.

If such communication is not authorized by a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or their agents, the communication shall clearly and conspicuously state that the communication is not authorized by any candidate, and state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication.

No person operating a broadcasting station within this State shall broadcast any such communication without announcing the name of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication.

Sec. 8. 21 MRSA § 1395, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is amended to read:

1. Individuals. No individual, other than a candidate in making a contribution to himself or a member of a candidate's immediate family candidate's spouse in making a contribution to that candidate, shall make contributions to a candidate, in support of the candidacy of one person, in an aggregate

amount greater than \$1,000 in any election. For the purposes of this subsection, "immediate family" includes a candidate's spouse and any child, parent, grandparent, brother or sister of the candidate and the spouse of such persons

Sec. 9. 21 MRSA § 1395, sub-§ 3, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is amended to read:

3. **Aggregate contributions.** No individual, other than a candidate in making a contribution to himself or a member of a candidate's immediately family candidate's spouse in making a contribution to that candidate, shall make contributions to candidates aggregating more than \$25,000 in any calendar year.

Sec. 10. 21 MRSA § 1395, sub-§ 5, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is amended to read:

The financing by any person of the dissemination, distribution or republication, in whole or in part, of any broadcast or any written or other campaign materials prepared by the candidate, the candidate's campaign political committee or committees or their authorized agents shall be considered to be a contribution to such candidate.

Sec. 11. 21 MRSA § 1395, sub-§ 6, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

6. **Certain expenditures prohibited.** A candidate, a political committee, a party or a committee thereof, a person required to file a report under this chapter or their authorized agents shall not make any expenditure for liquor to be distributed to or consumed by voters while the polls are open on election day.

Sec. 12. 21 MRSA § 1396, sub-§ 3, last sentence, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is amended to read:

The treasurer or candidate shall preserve all receipted bills and accounts required to be kept by this section for periods of time to be determined by the commission 2 years following the final report required to be filed for the election to which they pertain, unless otherwise ordered by the commission or a court.

Sec. 13. 21 MRSA § 1397, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1397. Reports

1. **Party committees.** When a state, district, county or municipal committee of a party makes contributions or expenditures expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or candidates, other than by contribution to a candidate or a candidate's authorized political committee, in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 with respect to one candidate in an election, such committee shall file a report with the commission. Such report shall contain an itemized account of each such expenditure in any election of an aggregate amount in excess of \$50, the purpose of each and the name of each payee or creditor. Such report shall contain an itemized account of each such contribution in any election of an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 received, the

name and address of each such contributor and the occupation and principal place of business, if any, of such contributor.

Reports required by this subsection in relation to a candidate for Governor shall be filed on the same dates on which reports for such candidates are to be filed under subsection 3. Reports required by this subsection in relation to a candidate for state or county office other than the office of Governor shall be filed on the same dates on which reports for such candidates are to be filed under subsection 4.

2. Federal candidates; parties. The state committee of each party, each candidate for federal office and the treasurer of the political committee or committees of each such candidate shall file with the commission, on the same date that such reports are required to be filed under federal law, a copy of the complete report required of them under federal law.

3. Gubernatorial candidates. Each candidate for the office of Governor or the candidate's treasurer and the treasurer of each political committee authorized by such a candidate shall file reports with the commission as follows.

A. In any calendar year other than a year in which an election for Governor is held and in which the candidate and the candidate's political committee or committees received contributions in excess of \$1,000 or made expenditures in excess of \$1,000, reports shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on January 15th of the following calendar year, or if that date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, not later than 5 p.m. on the following Monday, and shall be complete as of the close of the calendar year with respect to which the report is filed.

B. Reports shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the 42nd day before the date on which an election is held and shall be complete as of the 49th day before such date. If no report was filed under paragraph A, the report required under this paragraph shall cover the 6 months immediately preceding the completion date.

C. Reports shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the 7th day before the date on which an election is held and shall be complete as of the 11th day before such date.

D. Any contribution or expenditure of \$1,000 or more, made after the 11th day and more than 48 hours before any election, shall be reported within 48 hours of such contribution or expenditure.

E. Reports shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the 42nd day after the date on which an election is held and shall be complete for the entire election campaign as of the 35th day after such date.

F. Unless further reports shall be filed in relation to a later election in the same calendar year, the disposition of any surplus or deficit shown in the reports described in paragraph E shall be reported to the commission every 90 days from the date of the reports, until the surplus shall have been disposed of or the deficit shall have been liquidated. The reports shall set forth any contributions for the purpose of liquidating the deficit, in the same manner as contributions are set forth in other reports required in this section.

G. Unless otherwise specified in this subsection, reports shall be complete

back to the completion date of the previous report. The report described in paragraph E, if filed with respect to a primary election, shall be considered a previous report in relation to reports with respect to a general election.

H. Reports with respect to a candidate who seeks nomination by petition for the office of Governor shall be filed on the same dates that reports must be filed with respect to a candidate who seeks that nomination by primary election.

4. Other candidates. Each candidate for state or county office, other than for the office of Governor, or such candidate's treasurer and the treasurer of each political committee authorized by a candidate shall file reports with the commission as follows.

A. Reports shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the 7th day before the date on which an election is held and shall be complete as of the 11th day before such date. The first reports filed in a year in which an election is held shall cover the 6 months immediately preceding the completion date. Other reports shall be complete from the completion date of any previous report with respect to any election in the same year.

B. Any contribution or expenditure of \$1,000 or more, made after the 11th day and more than 48 hours before any election, shall be reported within 48 hours of such contribution or expenditure.

C. Reports shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the 42nd day after the date on which an election is held and shall be complete for the entire election campaign as of the 35th day after such date.

D. Unless further reports shall be filed in relation to a later election in the same calendar year, the disposition of any surplus or deficit shown in the reports described in paragraph C shall be reported to the commission every 90 days from the date of such reports, until such surplus should have been disposed of or such deficit shall have been liquidated. Such reports shall set forth any contributions for the purpose of liquidating such deficit, in the same manner as contributions are set forth in other reports required in this section.

E. Reports with respect to a candidate who seeks nomination by petition shall be filed on the same dates that reports must be filed by a candidate for the same office who seeks that nomination by primary election.

5. Other persons. Each person, other than a candidate or a candidate's authorized political committee, who makes contributions or expenditures expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, other than by contribution to a candidate or a candidate's authorized political committee, in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 with respect to an election shall file a report with the commission. Such report shall contain an itemized account of each such expenditure, in any election, of an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 the purpose of each and the name of each payee or creditor. Such report shall contain an itemized account of each such contribution, in any election, of an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 received, the name and address of each such contributor and the occupation and principal place of business, if any, of such contributor. Such report shall state whether

the contribution or expenditure is in support of or in opposition to the candidate and shall include, under penalty of perjury, as provided in Title 17-A, section 451, a statement under oath or affirmation whether such expenditure is made in cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or any authorized committee or agent of such candidate.

Any membership organization or corporation which makes a communication to its members or stockholders expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate shall report any expenditures in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 for such communication in any election, whether or not such communication is defined as an expenditure under section 1392, subsection 4, paragraph C, subparagraph (3).

Reports required by this subsection in relation to a candidate for Governor shall be filed on the same dates on which reports for such candidates are to be filed under subsection 3. Reports required by this subsection in relation to a candidate for state or county office other than the office of Governor shall be filed on the same dates on which reports for such candidates are to be filed under subsection 4.

6. **Content.** A report required under this section shall contain the itemized accounts of contributions received and the name, address, occupation and principal place of business, if any, of each person who has made a contribution of an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 for that election. It shall contain the itemized expenditures made or authorized, the purpose of each and the name of each payee and creditor. Total contributions with respect to an election of less than \$500, except when contributions in any election by one person in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 are included, and total expenditures of less than \$500 need not be itemized. Such report shall contain a statement of any loan of money in an aggregate amount of \$500 or more to a candidate by a financial institution made during the period covered by the report, whether or not such loan is defined as a contribution under section 1392, subsection 2, paragraph A.

7. **Forms.** Reports required by this chapter shall be on forms prescribed by the commission and prepared by the Secretary of State. Persons filing such reports may use additional pages if necessary, but such pages shall be of the same size as the pages of the form.

Sec. 14. 21 MRSA § 1398, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1398. Failure to file report on time

There shall be a penalty of \$10 for each day that a report required to be filed under this chapter is late. The commission shall determine whether a report received after the date required by this chapter is late.

The commission, upon determining that a report is late, shall notify the Secretary of State of such lateness. The Secretary of State shall have initial responsibility for collecting the full amount of any penalty within 30 days after receiving from the commission notice of a report's lateness. The Secretary of State shall have all necessary powers to carry out this responsibility.

Failure to pay the full amount of any penalty levied under the provisions of this section is a civil violation. Thirty days after receiving notice of the lateness of any report, the Secretary of State shall report to the Attorney General the name of any person who has failed to pay the full amount of any penalty. The Attorney General shall enforce such violation in a civil action to collect the full amount outstanding of the penalty. Such action shall be brought in the Superior Court for the County of Kennebec or the District Court, 7th District, Division of Southern Kennebec.

Sec. 15. 21 MRSA § 1399, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1399. Meetings

The commission shall meet for the purposes of this chapter and chapter 35-A in Augusta at least 4 times during any year in which primary and general elections are held. The commission shall meet at other times on the call of the Secretary of State, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the chairman or a majority of the members, provided all members are notified of the time, place and purpose of the meeting at least 24 hours in advance.

Sec. 16. 21 MRSA § 1400, sub-§ 2, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 759, § 1, is amended to read:

2. Investigations requested. Any person may make written application to the commission requesting an investigation concerning contributions by or to and expenditures by any person or candidate. The commission shall review the application and shall make the investigation if the reasons stated for the request show sufficient grounds for believing that a violation may have occurred.

Sec. 17. 21 MRSA c. 35-A, is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 35-A

REPORTS ON REFERENDUM CAMPAIGNS

§ 1411. Application

This chapter applies to campaigns for the initiation, promotion or defeat of questions.

§ 1412. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

1. Campaign. "Campaign" means a campaign for the initiation, promotion or defeat of a question, including:

A. The referendum procedure pursuant to the Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17;

B. The initiative procedure pursuant to the Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18;

C. An amendment to the Constitution pursuant to the Constitution, Article X, Section 4;

D. Legislation expressly conditioned upon ratification by a referendum vote pursuant to the Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 19; and

E. The ratification of the issue of bonds by the State or any agency thereof.

2. Commission. "Commission" means the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Campaign Practices established pursuant to Title I, section 1002.

3. Contribution. "Contribution" includes:

A. A gift subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing a campaign or referendum;

B. A contract, promise or agreement, expressed or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution for such purposes;

C. Funds received by a person for such purposes which are transferred to such person from another person, a political committee or other source; and

D. The payment, by any person other than a person required to make a report under this chapter, of compensation for the personal services of other persons which are rendered to such campaign without charge for any such purpose; but does not include:

(1) The value of services provided without compensation by individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a campaign;

(2) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and beverages, voluntarily provided by an individual in rendering voluntary personal services for campaign-related activities, if the cumulative value of such activities by such individual on behalf of any campaign does not exceed \$50 with respect to any campaign;

(3) The sale of any food or beverage by a vendor for use in a campaign at a charge less than the normal comparable charge, if such charge for use in a campaign is at least equal to the cost of such food or beverages to the vendor and if the cumulative value of such food or beverage does not exceed \$50 with respect to any campaign; or

(4) Any unreimbursed payment for travel expenses made by an individual who, on his own behalf, volunteers his personal services to a campaign if the cumulative amount for such individual incurred with respect to such campaign does not exceed \$50 with respect to any campaign.

4. Expenditure. "Expenditure" includes:

A. A purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing a campaign or referendum;

B. A contract, promise or agreement, expressed or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make any expenditures; and

C. The transfer of funds to another person for purposes of influencing a campaign or referendum; but does not include:

(1) Nonpartisan activity designed to encourage individuals to register to vote, or to vote;

(2) Any communication by any membership organization or corporation to its members or stockholders, if such membership organization or corporation is not organized primarily for the purpose of influencing a campaign or referendum;

(3) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and beverages, voluntarily provided by an individual in rendering voluntary personal services for campaign-related activities, if the cumulative value of such activities by such individual on behalf of any campaign do not exceed \$50 with respect to any campaign; or

(4) Any reimbursed payment for travel expenses made by an individual who, on his own behalf, volunteers his personal services to a campaign if the cumulative amount for such individual incurred with respect to such campaign does not exceed \$50 with respect to any campaign.

5. Person. "Person" means an individual, committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association; public utility, governmental agency or any other group or organization of persons.

§ 1413. Reports

1. Who must file. Any person who accepts contributions in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 or makes expenditures in excess of \$50 with respect to any campaign shall file a report with the commission, as provided in this section. Any person who is required under this subsection to file a report shall file a report for each filing period in subsection 2, whether or not contributions or expenditures are in excess of \$50 in any one period.

2. Filing dates. Reports shall be filed with the commission according to the schedule in this section. A report shall cover the 6 months immediately preceding the reporting date or the period since the completion date of a previous report on the same campaign.

A. In the case of the referendum procedure pursuant to the Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17, and of the initiative procedure pursuant to the Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18, a report shall be filed with the commission not later than 5 p.m. on the 14th day after the final date provided in the Constitution for filing petitions under such procedure and shall be complete as of such final date.

B. A report shall be filed with the commission not later than 5 p.m. on the 42nd day before the date of the referendum and shall be complete as of the 49th day before the date of the referendum.

C. A report shall be filed with the commission not later than 5 p.m. on the 7th day before the date of the referendum and shall be complete as of the 11th day before the date of the referendum.

D. Any contribution or expenditure of \$1,000 or more, made after the 11th day and more than 48 hours before any referendum, shall be reported within 48 hours of such contribution or expenditure.

E. A report shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the 42nd day after the date on which a referendum is held and shall be complete for the entire campaign as of the 35th day after such date.

F. The disposition of any surplus or deficit shown in the reports described in paragraph E shall be reported to the commission every 90 days from the date of such report, until such surplus shall have been disposed of or such deficit shall have been liquidated. Such reports shall set forth any contributions for the purpose of liquidating such deficit, in the same manner as contributions are set forth in other reports required in this section.

3. Content. A report required under this section shall contain the itemized accounts of contributions received and the name, address, occupation and principal place of business, if any, of each person who has made a contribution of an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 for that campaign. It shall contain the itemized expenditures made or authorized, the purpose of each and the name of each payee and creditor. Total contributions of less than \$500, except when contributions in any campaign by one person in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 are included, and total expenditures of less than \$500 need not be itemized.

4. Forms. Reports required by this chapter shall be on forms prescribed by the commission and prepared by the Secretary of State. Persons filing reports may use additional pages if necessary, but such pages shall be of the same size as the pages of the form.

§ 1414. Records

Any person who accepts contributions in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 or makes expenditures in excess of \$50 with respect to any campaign shall keep records as provided in this section.

1. Account of contributions; segregated funds. Every person who receives a contribution in excess of \$10 for a political committee shall, on demand of the treasurer, and in any event within 5 days after receipt of such contribution, render to the treasurer a detailed account thereof, including the amount of the contribution and the identification of the person making such contribution, and the date on which received. All funds of a committee shall be segregated from, and may not be commingled with, any personal funds of officers, members or associates of such committee.

2. Record keeping. It shall be the duty of a person or a treasurer to keep a detailed and exact account of:

- A. All contributions made to or for such campaign or to or for a committee;
- B. The identification of every person making a contribution in excess of \$10, and the date and amount thereof and, if a person's contributions in any campaign aggregate more than \$50, the account shall include occupation and the principal place of business, if any;
- C. All expenditures made by or on behalf of such campaign or committee; and
- D. The identification of every person to whom any expenditure is made and the date and amount thereof.

3. Receipts preservation. It shall be the duty of a person or treasurer to obtain and keep a receipted bill, stating the particulars, for every expenditure made by or on behalf of a campaign in excess of \$50 in amount, and for any such expenditure in a lesser amount if the aggregate amount of any such expenditures to the same person in any campaign exceeds \$50. The person shall preserve all receipted bills and accounts required to be kept by this section for 2 years following the final report required to be filed for the referendum to which they pertain, unless otherwise ordered by the commission or a court.

§ 1415. Committees

Any political committee which is formed with respect to a campaign shall appoint a treasurer before accepting any contributions or making any expenditures. Such committee shall inform the commission of the name and address of such treasurer within 7 days after such appointment, the name or title of the committee making the appointment and the treasurer's term of office. In addition to the registration of its treasurer, such committee shall submit to the commission the names and addresses of all of its officers.

§ 1416. Publication or distribution of statements

Whenever any person makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing communications expressly advocating the initiation, promotion or defeat of a question through broadcasting stations, newspapers, magazines, outdoor advertising facilities, direct mails and other similar types of general public political advertising and through flyers, handbills, bumper stickers and other nonperiodical publications, such communication shall clearly and conspicuously state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication.

No person operating a broadcasting station within this State shall broadcast any such communication without announcing verbally the name of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication.

§ 1417. Failure to file report on time

There shall be a penalty of \$10 for each day that a report required to be filed under this chapter is late. The commission shall determine whether a report received after the date required by this chapter is late.

The commission, upon determining that a report is late, shall notify the Secretary of State of such lateness. The Secretary of State shall have initial responsibility for collecting the full amount of any penalty within 30 days after receiving from the commission notice of a report's lateness. The Secretary of State shall have all necessary powers to carry out this responsibility.

Failure to pay the full amount of any penalty levied under the provisions of this section is a civil violation. Thirty days after receiving notice of the lateness of any report, the Secretary of State shall report to the Attorney General the name of any person who has failed to pay the full amount of any penalty. The Attorney General shall enforce such violation in a civil action to collect the full amount outstanding of the penalty. Such action shall be brought in the Superior Court for the County of Kennebec or the District Court, 7th District, Division of Southern Kennebec.

§ 1418. Investigations

1. Investigations. The commission may investigate to determine the facts concerning contributions by or to any person, and expenditures by any person. For this purpose, the commission may subpoena witnesses and records and take evidence under oath. A person who fails to obey the lawful subpoena of the commission or to testify before it under oath shall be punished by the Superior Court for contempt on application by the Attorney General on behalf of the commission.

2. Investigations requested. Any person may make written application to the commission requesting an investigation concerning contributions by or to and expenditures by any person or campaign. The commission shall review the application and shall make the investigation if the reasons stated for the request show sufficient grounds for believing that a violation may have occurred.

3. State Auditor; Secretary of State. The State Auditor and the Secretary of State shall assist the commission in making investigations and in other phases of the commission's duties under this chapter, as requested by the commission, and shall have all necessary powers to carry out such responsibilities.

4. Attorney General. The Attorney General shall be the counsel for the commission and may examine any witnesses before the commission. The commission shall refer any apparent violations of this chapter to the Attorney General for prosecution.

§ 1419. Violations

1. Contributions. No person shall knowingly make or accept any contribution or make any expenditure in violation of the provisions of this chapter.

2. False statement in report. No person shall make a false statement in any report required by this chapter.

§ 1420. Penalty

Any violation of any provision of this chapter for which a penalty is not otherwise provided shall be a Class E crime. The Attorney General shall prosecute any such violation.

Sec. 18. 21 MRSA § 1423, sub-§ 1, 2nd sentence, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 621, § 10, is amended to read:

Such hearing shall be held within 15 days after completion of the receipt of the appeal.

Sec. 19. 21 MRSA § 1424, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 621, § 10, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1424. Questions of law

1. Appeals. An appeal from a final decision by the body with final determinative powers pursuant to section 1423 may be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court on questions of law, if taken within 3 days of such final determination, in accordance with the procedure described in subsection 2.

2. Procedure. The appellant shall file the required number of copies of the record of the findings of fact and opinions and any decision issued pursuant to the final determination made by the appropriate body with the clerk of the courts within 5 days after filing notice of appeal. Within 10 days after the appeal is taken, the parties shall file briefs with the clerk of courts. As soon as the record and briefs have been filed, the court shall consider the case forthwith. The court shall not recount the ballots, but shall determine questions of law. The court shall issue its decision as soon as reasonably possible. The court shall allow costs to the prevailing party as justice may require.

Sec. 20. 21 MRSA § 1425, 2nd sentence, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 621, § 10, is repealed as follows:

"Referendum" shall mean an election for the determination of any question or proposition submitted to the voters.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 576

AN ACT to Provide Legislative Oversight of Appropriated Fund Transfers.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 1585, as amended by PL 1975, c. 771, § 72, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1585. Transfer of unexpended appropriations

1. Transfers authorized. Any balance of any appropriation or subdivision of an appropriation made by the Legislature for any state department or agency, which at any time may not be required for the purposes named in such appropriation or subdivision, may be transferred at any time prior