

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

August 2025

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LD 9 An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Disclosure

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 224 updates campaign finance disclosure laws as follows.

1. It defines “public communication” to clarify which types of communications to voters must disclose the person who financed the communication and require the filing of an independent expenditure report.
2. It makes technical adjustments to references to cable television and broadcast television to include satellite systems in order to reflect the language in the definition of “public communication.”
3. It authorizes the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Elections Practices to assess a penalty of up to five times the amount of the contribution when a person has made a contribution in the name of another or knowingly permitted the person’s name to be used to effect such a contribution.
4. It eliminates from the definition of “contribution” in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1012 a contract, promise or agreement to give money or something of value to influence an election, which also affects cross-references to that term in Title 1 regarding legislative ethics and Title 3 regarding lobbyist disclosure procedures.
5. It makes a technical correction to continue to include reports filed by ballot question committees in the prohibition on the use, for any commercial purpose, of information concerning contributors contained in that report.
6. It changes the requirements for when the top three funders statement is necessary for public communications funded by an entity making an independent expenditure. Prior to the enactment of Public Law 2025, chapter 224, for cable television, broadcast television or Internet video communication 30 seconds or less in duration, the audible statement may be modified to include only the single top funder. Public Law 2025, chapter 224 increases the communication duration to 60 seconds or less and removes the requirement that any audible statement be included on such communications. A written statement is still required.
7. It amends the requirements for any public communication consisting of an audio broadcast of 30 seconds or less or a print communication of 20 square inches or less to increase the audio duration to 60 seconds and to remove the requirement that a statement including the single highest funder be included on such communications.
8. It requires that the website of a candidate, party committee, political action committee or ballot question committee that advocates for or against a candidate or ballot question must identify the person who financed the website.

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9. It authorizes county and municipal candidates, and legislative candidates in a primary election, to make an online affirmation that they will not receive contributions or make expenditures to promote their elections in order to obtain an exemption from campaign finance reporting.
10. It requires the commission to send two written notices by regular mail and e-mail before initiating any penalty proceeding when a committee or other person fails to file a campaign finance report.
11. It eliminates the requirement for the commission to post a public list of candidates and political committees that have filed campaign finance reports late.
12. It clarifies that an organization that receives contributions or makes expenditures exceeding \$5,000 to influence a municipal referendum in a town or city with a population of less than 15,000 must register and file campaign finance reports with the commission.
13. It requires text messages transmitted with the assistance of mass distribution technology that expressly advocate for or against a ballot question to disclose the name of the person that financed the messages when that person has spent more than \$500 on the messaging campaign.
14. It requires account statements maintained by political action committees and ballot question committees to cover the financial activity in the committee's campaign account generally, not just the committee's deposits.
15. It clarifies that state campaign finance law applies to the financial activities of candidates, party committees, political action committees and others to influence elections for municipal office in towns and cities with a population of 15,000 or more.
16. It clarifies that disclaimer, record-keeping and other requirements in state campaign finance law pertaining to ballot question elections apply to municipal referenda and initiatives.
17. It exempts certain telephone calls from the requirements applicable to political communications.
18. It removes certain notices that the commission is required to provide when certain reports have not been filed.

LD 33 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Fantasy Contests

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 95 updates the definition of “fantasy contest” to mean a game or contest in which two or more contestants, none of which may be the fantasy contest operator, pay an entry fee to participate. It also provides that the director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety collects for deposit to the General Fund 10% of gross fantasy contest