

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1011

S. P. 398

In Senate, March 3, 1971

Reported by Majority from Committee on Election Laws and printed under
Joint Rules No. 18.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Limiting the Amount of Money Spent by Candidates Seeking
Political Office.**

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

R. S., T. 21, § 1395, sub-§§ 3 - 9, additional. Section 1395 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 7 new subsections to be numbered 3 to 9, to read as follows:

3. **General election.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no candidate for political office in a general election shall dispense on behalf of such candidacy for advertising an amount of money greater than the annual salary authorized for such office in any one year or 10¢ multiplied by the number of votes cast for all legally qualified candidates for such office at the last preceding general election for such office, whichever amount is the greater.

4. **Primary election.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no candidate for political office in a primary election shall dispense on behalf of such candidacy for advertising or other services an amount of money greater than 50% of either alternative specified in subsection 3, whichever amount is the greater.

5. **Expenditure in behalf of.** Amounts spent on behalf of any candidate for political office, as specified in subsections 3 and 4 shall be deemed to have been spent by such candidate.

6. —by others. No person, association, corporation or combination thereof shall dispense funds on behalf of a candidate for public office without written approval of said candidate. Anyone violating this section shall be

punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, or by both.

7. Against a candidate. No person, association, corporation or combination thereof shall dispense funds against a candidate for public office and thereby be indirectly supporting the candidacy of another without the written approval of the beneficiary thereof, and whoever does so dispense funds without said approval shall be punished by a fine of \$1,000 or by imprisonment for 11 months, or by both.

8. Filing. The written approval required by subsections 6 and 7 shall be filed with the election division of the Secretary of State's office within 48 hours of the time it is executed. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of State's office to turn over all data pertaining to alleged violations to the Attorney General for action.

9. Exemptions. Public service functions and programs shall be exempt from subsections 3 to 8.