

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2045

H. P. 1630

House of Representatives, June 21, 1973
(Pursuant to Joint Order H. P. 1583)
E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT Relating to Contributions and Expenditures to Influence
Direct Initiative or Referendum Legislation.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, direct initiative or referendum of legislation is a right of the people under the Constitution of Maine; and

Whereas, the public has the right to know the nature of compensation used to influence such legislation during this process; and

Whereas, the following legislation is urgently needed to assure such disclosure thereby preventing possible fraud and undue harm; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, § 1391-A, additional. Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1391-A to read as follows:

§ 1391-A. Contributions and expenditures for direct initiative or referendum legislation

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person, corporation, public or private utility, association, governmental agency or political committee accepting or expending money, to initiate, promote or defeat the public referendum of direct initiative legislation within the meaning of the Constitu-

tion of Maine or the state-wide public referendum of any statute shall be required starting on July 1, 1973 to file a report detailing the source, amount and date of receipt of all contributions and expenditures made in connection with any such referendum thereafter at the end of each month during such activity to file a report similarly detailing all such contributions and expenditures for that month. The Secretary of State shall establish such forms as may be necessary for efficient reporting under this section, and in any event said reports must be signed and sworn to before a notary public by the person responsible for filing the report.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 21, § 1, sub-§ 4-A, additional. Section 1 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding a new subsection 4-A to read as follows:

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.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this Act is reflected in the emergency preamble.