

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 167

S. P. 78

In Senate, January 24, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Election Laws. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Katz of Kennebec.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Amend the Campaign Finance Law.

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

**Sec. 1.** 21 MRSA § 1393, sub-§ 4, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 575, § 6, is repealed.

**Sec. 2.** 21 MRSA § 1397, sub-§ 7, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 575, § 13, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

**Committees, candidates and other persons required to file reports shall be responsible for obtaining forms.**

**Sec. 3.** 21 MRSA § 1398, first ¶, 2nd sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 575, § 14, is amended to read:

The commission shall determine whether a report received after the date required by this chapter is late **and, if determined to be late, the number of days of lateness.**

**Sec. 4.** 21 MRSA § 1413, sub-§ 4, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 575, § 17, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

**Persons required to file reports shall be responsible for obtaining forms.**

**Sec. 5. 21 MRSA § 1417, first ¶, 2nd sentence**, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 575, § 17, is amended to read:

The commission shall determine whether a report received after the date required by this chapter is late **and, if determined to be late, the number of days of lateness.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill encompasses recommendations of the Committee on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

Section 1. This dispenses with the requirement that municipal committees submit to the commission each general election year the names and addresses of their chairmen, secretaries and treasurers and thereafter file updating statements of change in this information.

Sections 2 and 4. This would place responsibility on those filing campaign reports to obtain forms and eliminate the excuse for late filing that forms were not seasonably received in advance of the filing date.

Sections 3 and 5. This would give commission discretion to give relief from burdensome penalties when warranted by extenuating circumstances.