

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 821

H. P. 661

House of Representatives, February 28, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Rolde of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Provide Notification to Candidates of the Requirement to File a Campaign Report and to Provide the Necessary Forms.**

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

**Sec. 1.** 21 MRSA § 1397, sub-§ 7, first sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 575, § 13, is amended to read:

Reports required by this chapter shall be on forms prescribed by the commission and, prepared by the Secretary of State and sent by the commission to the candidate in sufficient time to permit the candidate to file the report.

**Sec. 2.** 21 MRSA § 1398, first ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 575, § 14, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

**If the reason for a late filing is that the forms did not reach the candidate in sufficient time for filing, there shall be no penalty.**

**Sec. 3.** 21 MRSA § 1475, as amended by PL 1975, c. 761, § 55, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§ 1475. New candidate or nominee must file campaign report**

**1. Campaign report.** A candidate for nomination or a nominee chosen to fill a vacancy must file a campaign report as prescribed in section 1397 with the

**Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices within 15 days after his appointment and thereafter on the schedule prescribed by section 1397. The commission shall furnish notification of this requirement and report forms to the candidate immediately upon his appointment.**

**2. Penalty. There shall be a penalty of \$10 for each day that a report required to be filed under this section is late. If the reason for a late filing is that the forms did not reach the candidate in sufficient time for filing, there shall be no penalty.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to send campaign reporting forms to candidates in advance of the required report filing date. It also requires that notification of reporting requirements and report forms be provided to candidates and nominees who are chosen to fill a vacancy. The penalty provision under Title 21, section 1475 is the same as under Title 21, section 1398, but there is no penalty if the forms did not reach the candidate in sufficient time for timely filing.