

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

**Legislative Document**

**No. 1150**

H. P. 959

House of Representatives, March 6, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative J. Diamond of Bangor.

Cosponsors: Representative Benoit of South Portland, Representative Hobbins of Saco and Senator Conley of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

**AN ACT Relating to Referendum Campaign Reports and Finances.**

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA c. 35-A, first 2 lines, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 575, § 17 are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

**CHAPTER 35-A**

**REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN REPORTS AND FINANCES**

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 1412-A is enacted to read:

**§ 1412-A. Limitations on contributions and expenditures**

1. **Individuals.** No individual may make contributions in an aggregate amount greater than \$1,000 to any campaign.

2. **Committees; corporations; associations.** No political committee, other committee, corporation or association may make contributions in an aggregate amount greater than \$5,000 to any campaign.

3. **Political committee, intermediaries.** For the purpose of the limitations imposed by this section, contributions made to any political committee authorized

by a campaign to accept contributions shall be considered to be contributions made to that campaign.

For the purposes of the limitations imposed by this section, all contributions made by a person, either directly or indirectly, on behalf of a particular campaign, including contributions which are in any way earmarked or otherwise directed through an intermediary or conduit to that campaign, shall be treated as contributions from that person to that campaign. The intermediary or conduit shall report the original source and the intended recipient of the contribution to the commission and to the intended recipient.

4. Other contributions and expenditures. Expenditures made by any person in cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a campaign's political committee or its agents shall be considered to be a contribution to that campaign.

The financing by any person of the dissemination, distribution or republication, in whole or in part, of any broadcast or any written or other campaign materials shall be considered to be a contribution to that campaign.

5. Certain expenditures prohibited. A political committee, a party or committee thereof, a person required to file a report under this chapter or their authorized agents may not make any expenditure for liquor to be distributed to or consumed by voters while the polls are open on election day.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to prevent undue influence of referendum campaigns through excessive contributions from a single source. This bill essentially provides the same limitations that are established for contributions to candidates.