

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 694

6
7 H.P. 542

House of Representatives, February 10, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on Election Laws, sent up for concurrence and
9 ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Brown of Gorham.

Cosponsor: Representative Rolde of York.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Place Spending Ceilings on
18 Political Candidates.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §1395, sub-§1, as amended by PL
23 1977, c. 575, §8, is further amended to read:

24 1. Individuals. No individual, other than a can-
25 didate in making a contribution to himself or a can-
26 didate's spouse in making a contribution to that can-
27 didate, ~~shall~~ may make contributions to a candidate,
28 in support of the candidacy of one person, in an
29 aggregate amount greater than \$1,000 in any election
30 or in excess of the provisions of subsection 7.

31 Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §1395, sub-§2, as enacted by PL
32 1975, c. 759, §1, is amended to read:

1 2. Committees; corporations; associations. No
2 political committee, other committee, corporation or
3 association ~~shall~~ may make contributions to a candi-
4 date, in support of the candidacy of one person, in
5 an aggregate amount greater than \$5,000 in any elec-
6 tion or in excess of the provisions of subsection 7.

7 Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §1395, sub-§§7 and 8 are enacted
8 to read:

9 7. Contribution limitation per candidate. No
10 candidate may accept any contribution that exceeds
11 the limit established on total contributions to can-
12 didates required by this subsection. The total
13 amount of contributions a candidate may accept is as
14 follows.

15 A. Contributions to a candidate in a primary
16 election for the nomination as a candidate for
17 the office of Governor shall not exceed \$1 for
18 every vote cast for Governor in the last general
19 election.

20 B. Contributions to a candidate for election to
21 the office of Governor, not including a primary
22 election, shall not exceed \$3 for every vote cast
23 for Governor in the last general election.

24 C. Contributions to a candidate in a primary
25 election for the nomination as a candidate for
26 the office of United States Senator from Maine
27 shall not exceed \$1 for every vote cast in the
28 candidate's district in the last general election
29 for the office of United States Senator.

30 D. Contributions to a candidate for the election
31 to the office of United States Senator from Maine
32 shall not exceed \$3 for every vote cast in the
33 candidate's district in the last general election
34 for this office.

35 E. Contributions to a candidate in a primary
36 election for the nomination to be a candidate for
37 the office of United States Representative from
38 Maine shall not exceed 50¢ for every vote cast in
39 the candidate's district in the last general

1 election for the office of United States Repre-
2 sentative.

3 F. Contributions to a candidate for the election
4 to the office of United States Representative
5 from Maine shall not exceed \$1.50 for every vote
6 cast in the candidate's district in the last gen-
7 eral election for the office of United States
8 Representative.

9 G. Contributions to a candidate in a primary
10 election for the nomination as a candidate for
11 the office of Senator in the Maine Senate shall
12 not exceed 20¢ for every vote cast in the candi-
13 date's district in the last general election for
14 this office.

15 H. Contributions to a candidate for the election
16 to the office of Senator in the Maine Senate
17 shall not exceed 60¢ for every vote cast in the
18 candidate's district in the last general election
19 for this office.

20 I. Contributions to a candidate in a primary
21 election for nomination as a candidate for the
22 office of Representatives in the Maine House of
23 Representative shall not exceed 20¢ for every
24 vote cast in the candidate's district in the last
25 general election for this office.

26 J. Contributions to a candidate for the election
27 to the office of Representative in the Maine
28 House of Representatives shall not exceed 60¢ for
29 every vote cast in the candidate's district in
30 the last general election for this office.

31 K. Contributions to a candidate in a primary
32 election for nomination as a candidate for an
33 elected county office shall not exceed 10¢ for
34 every vote cast for that office in the candi-
35 date's county for that specific office.

36 L. Contributions to a candidate for an elected
37 county office shall not exceed 30¢ for every vote
38 cast for that office in the candidate's county
39 for that specific office.

1 M. Contributions to a candidate for an elected
2 municipal office shall not exceed 20¢ for every
3 vote cast in the last general election for that
4 office in the municipality for which the candi-
5 date seeks election.

6 N. Contributions to any political committee,
7 political action committee, person or organiza-
8 tion that seeks to influence the outcome, in any
9 way, of a vote in an election on a referendum or
10 initiated petition shall not exceed 40¢ for every
11 vote cast on a referendum question that received
12 the greatest number of votes in the last general
13 election.

14 8. Excess revenues. Any excess revenues derived
15 from contributions to any candidate as defined by
16 subsection 7 shall be returned to the contributor by
17 the candidate no later than 5 business days following
18 receipt of the contribution.

19 STATEMENT OF FACT

20 This bill limits total contributions to political
21 candidates as a means of making the election process
22 more equitable. The intent is to reduce the role
23 that wealth plays in the political process.

24 According to this bill, the following limits are
25 placed on total contributions to a candidate:

26 Office	27 # of dollars per 28 vote cast in last 29 general election Primary	30 # of dollars per 31 vote cast in last 32 general election Election
33 Governor	\$1.00	\$3.00
34 U.S. Senator	\$1.00	\$3.00
35 U.S. Representative	\$.50	\$1.50
36 State Senator	\$.20	\$.60
37 State Representative	\$.20	\$.60
County Officer	\$.10	\$.30
Local Officer		\$.20
Referendum		\$.40

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