

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2351
6

7 H.P. 1785

House of Representatives, March 27, 1984
8

Submitted by the Joint Standing Committee on Election Laws as
approved by the Legislative Council on May 25, 1983.
9

Reported by Representative Handy from the Committee on Election Laws
to which was referred by the Legislative Council the study relative to
Campaign Finance and printed under Joint Rule 19.
10

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
11

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Place Limitations on the
18 Contributions which Candidates may Receive
19 from Political Action Committees.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §1395-A is enacted to read:

24 §1395-A. Limitations on receipts from political ac-
25 tion committees

26 The amount of aggregate contributions which a
27 candidate may receive in support of his campaign from
28 all political action committees as defined in section
29 1552 shall be limited as provided in this section.

30 1. Candidates. Candidates shall be limited as
31 follows.

1 A. A candidate for the office of Governor shall
2 be limited to a total of \$45,000 in contributions
3 from all political action committees.

4 B. A candidate for the Senate shall be limited
5 to a total of \$1,000 in contributions from all
6 political action committees.

7 C. A candidate for Representative to the Legis-
8 lature shall be limited to a total of \$500 in
9 contributions from all political action commit-
10 tees.

11 D. A candidate for other state elective office
12 shall be limited to a total of \$250 in contribu-
13 tions from all political action committees.

14 2. Inflation factor. The limitations imposed by
15 this section shall be adjusted by an inflation factor
16 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The
17 inflation factor shall be determined by dividing the
18 Consumer Price Index for the year in which contribu-
19 tions are made by the Consumer Price Index for 1983.
20 The resulting quotient shall be multiplied by the
21 limitation imposed by this section and rounded off to
22 the nearest \$50 increment to determine the new limi-
23 tation for that year. The Consumer Price Index for
24 Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, for all
25 items, using the 1967 base of 100, compiled by the
26 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
27 Statistics, shall be used for the computations de-
28 scribed in this subsection. The Commission on Gov-
29 ernmental Ethics and Election Practices shall compute
30 and advise candidates of the limitations imposed by
31 this section.

32 3. Political parties. The limitations provided
33 in this section do not apply to contributions made by
34 a party qualified to appear on the ballot in a pri-
35 mary or general election during the year in which the
36 contributions were made.

37 Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take ef-
38 fect January 1, 1985.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes a limit on total contributions which various candidates could accept from all political action committees contributing to their campaign. The limit varies with the office being sought. For the office of Governor, the total contributions which a candidate may receive from all PAC's is \$45,000; for State Senate \$1,000; for State Representative \$500; and for other State office \$250.

The limitation imposed by this bill does not apply to contributions by political parties.

The limitation will be adjusted each election year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index so that the limits don't become outdated by inflation over the years. Candidates will be advised of new limits by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

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