

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 251

6
7 H.P. 217

House of Representatives, January 29, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Handy of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator Gauvreau of Androscoggin and Representative
12 Michael of Auburn.

13 STATE OF MAINE

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

17 AN ACT to Require more Complete Disclosure of
18 Campaign Contributions.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §1396, sub-§1, as repealed and
23 replaced by PL 1975, c. 759, §1, is amended to read:

24 1. Account of contributions; segregated funds.
25 Every person who receives a contribution ~~in excess of~~
26 \$10 for a candidate or a political committee shall,
27 on demand of the treasurer or candidate, and in any
28 event within 5 days after receipt of such contribu-
29 tion, render to the treasurer or candidate a detailed
30 account thereof, including the amount of the contri-
31 bution and the identification of the person making
32 such contribution, and the date on which received.
33 All funds of a political committee shall be segre-
34 gated from, and may not be commingled with, any per-
35 sonal funds of officers, members or associates of
36 such committee.

1 Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §1396, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by
2 PL 1979, c. 434, §1, is repealed and the following
3 enacted in its place:

4 B. The identification of every person making a
5 contribution and the date and amount thereof and,
6 if an individual's contributions in any report
7 filing period aggregate more than \$50 and for any
8 other person who makes a contribution, the ac-
9 count shall include occupation and the principal
10 place of business, if any. If the individual is a
11 member of a candidate's immediate family as de-
12 fined in section 1395, subsection 1, the account
13 shall state such relationship. For purposes of
14 this paragraph, "filing period" is as provided in
15 section 1397, subsection 4, paragraph A;

16 Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §1397, sub-§6, as amended by PL
17 1979, c. 434, §4, is further amended to read:

18 6. Content. A report required under this sec-
19 tion shall contain the itemized accounts of contribu-
20 tions received and the name, address, occupation and
21 principal place of business, if any, of each person
22 who has made a contribution ~~of an aggregate amount in~~
23 ~~excess of \$50~~ for that report filing period, except
24 that contributions by an individual need not be item-
25 ized unless the aggregate amount of those contribu-
26 tions by the individual exceed \$50. It shall contain
27 the itemized expenditures made or authorized, the
28 purpose of each and the name of each payee and credi-
29 tor. Total contributions with respect to an election
30 of less than \$500 and total expenditures of less than
31 \$500 need not be itemized. Such report shall contain
32 a statement of any loan of money in an aggregate
33 amount of \$500 or more to a candidate by a financial
34 institution made during the period covered by the re-
35 port, whether or not such loan is defined as a con-
36 tribution under section 1392, subsection 2, paragraph
37 A.

38 Sec. 4. 21 MRSA §1413, sub-§3, as enacted by PL
39 1977, c. 575, §17, is amended to read:

40 3. Content. A report required under this section
41 shall contain the itemized accounts of contributions

1 received and the name, address, occupation and prin-
2 cipal place of business, if any, of each person who
3 has made a contribution of ~~an aggregate amount in ex-~~
4 ~~cess of \$50~~ for that campaign, except that contribu-
5 tions by an individual need not be itemized unless
6 the aggregate amount of those contributions by the
7 individual exceed \$50. It shall contain the itemized
8 expenditures made or authorized, the purpose of each
9 and the name of each payee and creditor. Total con-
10 tributions of less than \$500, except when contribu-
11 tions in any campaign by one person in an aggregate
12 amount in excess of \$50 are included, and total ex-
13 penditures of less than \$500 need not be itemized.

14 Sec. 5. 21 MRSA §1414, sub-§1, as enacted by PL
15 1977, c. 575, §17, is amended to read:

16 1. Account of contributions; segregated funds.
17 Every person who receives a contribution ~~in excess of~~
18 ~~\$10~~ for a political committee shall, on demand of the
19 treasurer, and in any event within 5 days after re-
20 ceipt of such contribution, render to the treasurer a
21 detailed account thereof, including the amount of the
22 contribution and the identification of the person
23 making such contribution, and the date on which re-
24 ceived. All funds of a committee shall be segregated
25 from, and may not be commingled with, any personal
26 funds of officers, members or associates of such com-
27 mittee.

28 Sec. 6. 21 MRSA §1414, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by
29 PL 1977, c. 575, §17, is amended to read:

30 B. The identification of every person making a
31 contribution ~~in excess of \$10~~, and the date and
32 amount thereof and, if a person's an individual's
33 contributions in any campaign aggregate more than
34 \$50 and for any other person who makes a
35 contribution, the account shall include occupa-
36 tion and the principal place of business, if any;

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill requires candidates and referendum cam-
3 paigns to report all contributions received from po-
4 litical action committees, corporations and other or-
5 ganizations. Currently, these contributions need on-
6 ly be reported when they aggregate in excess of \$50.
7 The bill retains the current \$50 triggering level for
8 the reporting of contributions made by individuals.
9 The purpose of the bill is to improve the electoral
10 process by increasing the amount of information
11 available to the public about the financing of par-
12 ticular political campaigns.

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