

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1801
(Filing No. H-569)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
112TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A"
to H.P. 1284, L.D. 1801, Bill, "AN ACT to Clarify
and Make Corrections in the Election Laws."

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Amend the amendment on page 4 by inserting after
the first paragraph the following:

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'Sec. 20. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§5, ¶A, as en-
acted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

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A. Includes:

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(1) Any separate or segregated fund estab-
lished by any corporation, membership orga-
nization, cooperative or labor organization
whose purpose is to influence the outcome of
an election including a candidate or ques-
tion; and

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(2) Any person which serves as a funding
and transfer mechanism and by which moneys
are expended to advance, promote, defeat,
influence in any way or initiate a candi-
date, campaign, political party, referendum
or initiated petition in this State; and

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(3) Any person who makes expenditures other
than by contribution to a political action
committee, for the purpose of the initia-
tion, promotion or defeat of any question;
and'

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Further amend the amendment on page 4 in the 2nd
paragraph in the first line (line 3 in the amendment)
by striking out the following: "Sec. 20." and insert-
ing in its place the following: 'Sec. 21.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This amendment corrects the reporting require-
3 ments for campaign financing.

4 The original bill repeals the Maine Revised Stat-
5 utes, Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter III, which
6 requires financial reporting for referendum cam-
7 paigns. Subchapter III is repealed because most
8 spending for referendum campaigns is done by organi-
9 zations which also qualify as political action com-
10 mittees; political action committees are required to
11 report their finances under subchapter IV. By re-
12 pealing subchapter III, the original bill's intent
13 was to remove the duplicative reporting requirement.

14 The reporting requirements of Title 21-A, chapter
15 13, subchapter III, however, apply to individuals
16 who spend in excess of \$50 to promote or defeat a
17 question; these individuals do not currently fall un-
18 der the definition of political action committee. By
19 repealing subchapter III, individuals who are now re-
20 quired to report will not have to report. This was
21 not the intent of the bill.

22 This amendment makes sure that these individuals
23 are still required to file reports by expanding the
24 definition of political action committees. Any per-
25 son who expends his own funds, other than by contrib-
26 uting to a political action committee, for the initi-
27 ation, promotion or defeat of a question, including
28 any referendum or bond issue, is defined as a politi-
29 cal action committee. All political action commit-
30 tees which spend more than \$50 on any campaign must
31 register and file regular reports.

32 The intent is not to change current policy. Any
33 person who expends more than \$50 on a referendum cam-
34 paign is currently required to report by Title 21-A,
35 chapter 13, subchapter III. This amendment simply

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1284
L.D. 1801

1 ensures that these people continue to be required to
2 file reports.

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