

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 966

H.P. 715 House of Representatives, March 26, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative HANDY of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Representative MAYO of Thomaston, Senators
KANY of Kennebec and ESTES of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relating to Political Action
Committees under the Campaign
Financing Laws.

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

7 Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§4 is enacted to
8 read:

9 4. Exploratory committee. "Exploratory commit-
10 tee" means a committee formed by or on behalf of a
11 person to determine any aspect of the feasibility of
12 that person running as a candidate for state or coun-
13 ty office. For the purposes of this chapter,
14 exploratory committees are considered a form of po-
15 litical committee authorized by the candidate.

1 Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1013, sub-§2, as enacted by
2 PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

3 2. Authorized political committees. A candidate
4 may authorize one or more political committees to
5 promote the candidate, including an exploratory
6 committee. Each of these political committees must
7 appoint a treasurer before accepting any contribu-
8 tions or making or authorizing any expenditures.
9 Within 7 days after that appointment, the political
10 committee must inform the commission of the name and
11 address of its treasurer, the name or title of the
12 committee making the appointment and the treasurer's
13 term of office. In addition to the registration of
14 its treasurer, a political committee authorized by a
15 candidate shall submit the names and addresses of all
16 of its officers to the commission, whether or not the
17 committee accepts any contributions or makes or au-
18 thORIZES any expenditures.

19 Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1013, sub-§3, as enacted by
20 PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is repealed.

21 Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1056, sub-§1, as enacted by
22 PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

23 1. Aggregate expenditures. No committee may
24 make expenditures in support of or opposition to the
25 candidacy of one person or to a political committee
26 in an aggregate amount greater than \$5,000 \$2,500 in
27 any election.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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30 This bill accomplishes 3 things. First, it de-
31 fines exploratory committee and requires that such
32 exploratory committees report their officers, contri-
33 butions and expenditures just like other political
34 committees formed by or for candidates. This is to
35 remove the possibility that exploratory committees
36 can raise, contribute and spend money without any
37 disclosure. This closes a loophole in the current
campaign financing and reporting laws.

1 Second, this bill removes a duplicative classifi-
2 cation of "other committees." "Other committees" are
3 committees other than party committees or committees
4 authorized by candidates. "Other committees," under
5 current law, must report under this subchapter and as
6 a political action committee. This bill deletes refer-
7 ence to "other committees" in the subchapter on
8 campaigns for office; the subchapter on political ac-
9 tion committees will still apply to them.

10 Third, this bill reduces the limit on the aggre-
11 gate amounts political action committees may expend
12 in support of or in opposition to a candidate or to a
13 political committee to \$2,500 for each election.
14 This is half of the current limit on such expendi-
15 tures.

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