

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1026

H.P. 763 House of Representatives, March 31, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative HANDY of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator KANY of Kennebec, Representatives
PERRY of Mexico and MURPHY of Berwick.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Require the Reporting of the Value
2 of Political Advertising when Fairness Leads
3 to the Giving of Equal Time.
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1017, sub-§5, as enacted by
8 PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

9 5. Content. A report required under this sec-
10 tion must contain the itemized accounts of contribu-
11 tions received and the name, address, occupation and
12 principal place of business, if any, of each person
13 who has made a contribution aggregating in excess of
14 \$50 for that report filing period. It must contain
15 the itemized expenditures made or authorized, the
16 purpose of each expenditure and the name of each pay-

1 ee and creditor. Total contributions with respect to
2 an election of less than \$500 and total expenditures
3 of less than \$500 need not be itemized. The report
4 must contain a statement of any loan of money in an
5 aggregate amount of \$500 or more to a candidate by a
6 financial institution made during the period covered
7 by the report, whether or not the loan is defined as
8 a contribution under section 1012, subsection 2, par-
9 agraph A.

10 The report must contain a disclosure of the date,
11 time, type and duration of any radio or television
12 broadcast time afforded to a candidate when fairness
13 leads to giving equal time, excluding an appearance
14 by a candidate on any:

15 A. Bona fide newscast;

16 B. Bona fide news interview;

17 C. Bona fide news documentary; or

18 D. On-the-spot coverage of a bona fide news
19 event, including, but not limited to, political
20 conventions and activities incidental to those
21 conventions.

22 Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1018, sub-§2, ¶D is enacted
23 to read:

24 D. The report required by this section must con-
25 tain a disclosure of the date, time, type and du-
26 ration of any radio or television broadcast time
27 afforded to the committee when fairness leads to
28 giving equal time, excluding a broadcast of any:

29 (1) Bona fide newscast;

30 (2) Bona fide news interview;

31 (3) Bona fide news documentary; or

32 (4) On-the-spot coverage of a bona fide
33 news event, including, but not limited to,
34 political conventions and activities inci-
35 idental to those conventions.

1 Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1019, sub-§§4 and 5 are en-
2 acted to read:

3 4. Disclosure of broadcast time. The report
4 must contain a disclosure of the date, time, type and
5 duration of any radio or television broadcast time
6 afforded to a candidate or question when fairness
7 leads to giving equal time, excluding a broadcast of
8 any:

9 A. Bona fide newscast;

10 B. Bona fide news interview;

11 C. Bona fide news documentary; or

12 D. On-the-spot coverage of a bona fide news
13 event, including, but not limited to, political
14 conventions and activities incidental to those
15 conventions.

16 5. Exemption; broadcasts. For purposes of this
17 section, a radio or television broadcast station is
18 not required to disclose in the report as a contribu-
19 tion the fair market value of any radio or television
20 broadcast time afforded to any person when fairness
21 leads to giving equal time. A station shall provide
22 upon the request of any person, the information nec-
23 essary to fulfill reporting requirements under this
24 subchapter and subchapter IV.

25 Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1053, sub-§7, as enacted by
26 PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

27 7. Contributions to committee. The names and
28 mailing addresses of contributors who donate in ex-
29 cess of \$50 each year to the committee with amount or
30 value of each contribution at the time of registra-
31 tion. Any person who makes contributions on an in-
32 stallment basis, the total of which exceeds \$50 in
33 the calendar year, is considered a contributor to be
34 identified under this subsection.

35 The report must contain a disclosure of the date,
36 time, type and duration of any radio or television
37 broadcast time afforded to a candidate or question
38 when fairness leads to giving equal time, excluding a
39 broadcast of any:

