

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 448

H.P. 329

House of Representatives, February 27, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative HANLEY of Paris.

Cosponsored by Representative HEPBURN of Skowhegan and Representative McCORMICK of Rockport.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Limit Legislative Campaign Spending.



1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

3 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §32 is enacted to read:**

5 **§32. Civil violation**

7 Any candidate who exceeds the aggregate spending limitations
9 of section 1015, subsection 7, shall be subject to a forfeiture
11 not to exceed \$500 payable to the Secretary of State.
Enforcement and collection procedures shall be in accordance with
section 1020.

13 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§7 is enacted to read:**

15 7. Media expenditures. No candidate for State Senator may
17 make expenditures totaling more than \$5,000 and no candidate for
19 Representative to the Legislature may make expenditures totaling
21 more than \$2,000 to finance television, radio or newspaper
23 communications advocating the election or defeat of a clearly
25 identified candidate in a primary or general election.
27 Candidates shall clearly identify expenditures made to finance
29 television, radio or newspaper communications in the report
31 required by section 1017. For the purposes of the limitations
33 imposed by this section and section 32, expenditures made by any
35 political committee authorized by a candidate, or in cooperation,
37 consultation or concert with a candidate or authorized political
39 committee, and expenditures made at the request or suggestion of
41 a candidate, a candidate's political committee or their agents,
43 are considered to be expenditures by that candidate.

33 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

35 The purpose of this bill is to check the mounting costs of
37 state legislative races. To this end, the bill imposes a limit
39 on the total amount a candidate may spend on media
41 communications. The limit applies only to media expenditures
43 made to advocate the election or defeat of an identified
45 candidate. Candidates for State Senator may spend a total of
47 \$5,000 on television, radio and newspaper ads. Candidates for
Representative to the Legislature may spend \$2,000.

43 The bill provides for a forfeiture for failure to comply
45 with the spending limits. Candidates who exceed the pertinent
47 limit are subject to a maximum forfeiture of \$500. Candidates
are required to clearly identify media expenditures subject to
this section in the financial report required by current law.