

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 1602

H.P. 1103

House of Representatives, April 22, 1991

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 O'GARA of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAUN of Knox, Representative HANDY of Lewiston and Representative CROWLEY of Stockton Springs.

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STATE OF MAINE

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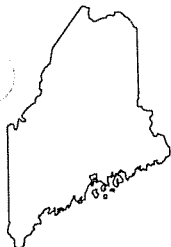
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

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An Act to Limit the Cost and the Length of Campaigns.

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(EMERGENCY)



Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the  
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after  
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation instructs the Commission on  
Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to conduct a study of  
campaign reform; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day  
period expires in order that the study may be completed in time  
for submission of a report to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Commission charged, duties. Resolved: That the  
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices is  
instructed to study whether the election laws ought to be amended  
to reform the campaign process in this State. In conducting the  
study, the commission shall examine the following questions:

1. Whether the election laws ought to further limit  
campaign expenditures;

2. Whether the election laws ought to limit the length of  
campaigns;

3. Whether campaign advertising ought to be regulated; and

4. Whether other statutory provisions are necessary to  
ensure fair campaign practices; and be it further

Sec. 2. Examining questions. In examining these questions, the  
commission may:

1. Meet up to 6 times in Augusta;

2. Hold informational sessions for discussions with  
knowledgeable persons;

3. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a  
literature search;

4. Procure and analyze relevant data;

5. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal  
questions within the scope of the study, including the  
limitations on campaign reform imposed by the United States  
Constitution and the Constitution of Maine; and

2           6. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or  
governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions related  
4 to issues within the scope of the study; and be it further

6           **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit  
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,  
8 to the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature no later  
than November 1, 1991.

10           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
12 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

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#### STATEMENT OF FACT

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18           This resolve instructs the Commission on Governmental Ethics  
and Election Practices to conduct a study of whether the State's  
election laws need to be amended to achieve campaign reform by  
20 limiting campaign contributions, campaign practices and  
advertising, or the length of campaigns. The commission is  
22 directed to prepare a report, together with implementing  
legislation, by November 1, 1991 for consideration by the Second  
24 Regular Session of the 115th Legislature.

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