

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 594

S.P. 180

In Senate, February 23, 1993

**An Act to Limit Contributions Candidates May Receive from Political
Action Committees.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HANDY of Androscoggin.

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

2. ~~Committees; corporations; associations. No--political committee,---other~~ Any committee, except political action committees, corporation or association may make contributions to a candidate, in support of the candidacy of one person, aggregating more than \$5,000 in any election. Political action committee contributions made to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person are restricted by section 1015-B.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015-B is enacted to read:

§1015-B. Limitations on receipts from political action committees

The amount of aggregate contributions that a candidate may receive in support of the candidate's campaign from all committees, as defined in section 1052, is limited, as provided in this section.

1. Candidates. Candidates are limited as follows.

A. A candidate for Governor is limited to a total of \$45,000 in contributions from all political action committees.

B. A candidate for the Senate is limited to a total of \$1,000 in contributions from all political action committees.

C. A candidate for the House of Representatives is limited to a total of \$500 in contributions from all political action committees.

D. A candidate for other state elective offices is limited to a total of \$250 in contributions from all political action committees.

2. Inflation factor. The limitations imposed by this section are adjusted by an inflation factor to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. This inflation factor is determined by dividing the Consumer Price Index for the year in which contributions are made by the Consumer Price Index for the preceding year. The resulting quotient is then multiplied by the limitation imposed by this section and rounded off to the nearest \$50 increment to determine the new limitation for that year. The Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers for all items, using the 1967 base of 100 compiled by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, must be

used for the computations described in this subsection. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall compute and advise qualified candidates, as determined by the Secretary of State, of the limitations imposed by this section.

3. Political parties. The limitations provided in this section do not apply to contributions made by a party qualified to appear on the ballot in a primary or general election during the year in which the contributions were made.

4. Fraudulent or misleading contributions. Section 1015, subsections 4 and 5 apply to contributions or expenditures made by political action committees under the limitations of this section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes a limit on total contributions that various candidates may accept from all political action committees contributing to their campaigns. The limit varies with the office being sought. For a candidate for Governor, the total contributions from all political action committees is \$45,000; for a candidate for Senate, \$1,000; for a candidate for House of Representative, \$500 and for any other state office, \$250.

These limitations will be adjusted each election year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index so that the limits do not become outdated by inflation over the years. Candidates will be advised of new limits by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

The limitations imposed by this bill do not apply to contributions made by political parties but do apply to contributions by political action committees made through an intermediary or expenditures made by political action committees on a candidate's behalf with that candidate's consent or cooperation.