

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 111

H.P. 75

House of Representatives, January 17, 1995

**An Act to Ensure Fairness in Elections by Limiting Political Action
Committee Contributions.**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative JOY of Crystal.
Cosponsored by Representatives: JONES of Pittsfield, TUFTS of Stockton Springs.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 839, §11
4 and affected by §34, is repealed.

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

8 **§1015-B. Limitations on contributions and expenditures**

10 **1. Individuals; aggregate contributions.** An individual may
12 not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy
14 of one person aggregating more than \$1,000 in any election and
16 may not make contributions to candidates in an aggregate amount
greater than \$25,000 in any calendar year. This limitation does
not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that
candidate or the candidate's spouse.

18 **2. Committees; corporations; associations.** A political
20 committee, political action committee, other committee,
22 corporation or association may not make contributions to a
24 candidate aggregating more than \$100 for any election in this
State. This limitation does not apply to contributions in
support of a candidate by the political party of that candidate.

26 **3. Political committees; intermediaries.** For the purpose of
the limitations imposed by this section, contributions made to
28 any political committee authorized by a candidate to accept
contributions on the candidate's behalf are considered to be
contributions made to that candidate.

30 For the purposes of the limitations imposed by this section, all
32 contributions made by an individual, either directly or
34 indirectly, on behalf of a particular candidate, including
36 contributions that are in any way earmarked or otherwise directed
through an intermediary or conduit to the candidate, are
38 considered to be contributions from that individual to the
candidate. The intermediary or conduit shall report the original
source and the intended recipient of the contribution to the
commission and to the intended recipient.

40 **4. Other contributions and expenditures.** Any expenditure
42 made by any person in cooperation, consultation or concert with,
44 or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's
political committee or an authorized agent is considered to be a
contribution to that candidate.

46 The financing by any person of the dissemination, distribution or
48 republication, in whole or in part, of any broadcast or any
written or other campaign materials prepared by the candidate,

2 the candidate's political committee or committees or an
3 authorized agent is considered to be a contribution to that
4 candidate.

5 **5. Prohibited expenditures.** A candidate, a political
6 committee, a party or party committee, a person required to file
7 a report under this subchapter or an authorized agent may not
8 make any expenditures for liquor to be distributed to or consumed
9 by voters while the polls are open on election day.

10 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1017, sub-§8, ¶E,** as amended by PL 1991, c.
11 839, §21 and affected by §34, is further amended to read:

12 E. Transferring the surplus balance to one or more other
13 candidates registered under section 1013-A or qualified
14 under sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355, or to
15 political committees established to promote the election of
16 those candidates, provided that the amount transferred does
17 not exceed the contribution limits established by section
18 ~~1015~~ 1015-B;

19 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1056, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1985, c.
20 161, §6, is amended to read:

21 **1. Aggregate expenditures.** No A committee may not make
22 expenditures in support of or opposition to the candidacy of one
23 person in an aggregate amount greater than \$100 in any election
24 or to a political committee in an aggregate amount greater than
25 \$5,000 in any election.

32 STATEMENT OF FACT

33 This bill limits to \$100 the contributions that may be made
34 by a political committee, political action committee, other
35 committee, corporation or association to a candidate in any
36 election in this State. This limitation does not apply to
37 contributions from the candidate, the candidate's spouse, the
38 candidate's own political party or individuals contributing in
39 support of the candidate.
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