

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
117TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 322, L.D. 443, Bill, "An Act to Place a Spending Cap on State Senate and House Campaigns"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Reform Campaign Finance'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in paragraph C in the first 3 lines (page 1, lines 5 to 7 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "appointing a treasurer, and before accepting contributions, making expenditures or incurring obligations" and inserting in its place the following: 'becoming a candidate, as defined in section 1, subsection 5'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§§7 to 9 are enacted to read:

7. Voluntary limitations on political expenditures. A candidate may voluntarily agree to limit the total expenditures made on behalf of that candidate's campaign as specified in section 1013-A, subsection 1, paragraph C and subsections 8 and 9.

8. Political expenditure limitation amounts. Total expenditures in any election for legislative office by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit campaign expenditures as provided in subsection 7 are as follows:

A. For State Senator, \$25,000; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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B. For State Representative, \$5,000.

Expenditure limits are per election and may not be carried forward from one election to another. For calculation and reporting purposes, the reporting periods established in section 1017 apply.

9. Publication of list. The commission shall publish a list of the candidates for State Representative and State Senator who have agreed to voluntarily limit total expenditures for their campaigns as provided in section 1013-A, subsection 1, paragraph C.

For the purposes of subsections 7 and 8 and this subsection, "total expenditures" means the sum of all expenditures made to influence a single election that are made by a candidate or made on the candidate's behalf by the candidate's political committee or committees, the candidate's party or the candidate's immediate family.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices will incur some minor additional costs to publish the names of candidates who participate in the voluntary limitations on political expenditures. These costs can be absorbed within the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices' existing budgeted resources.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment changes the title of the bill to reflect the provisions as amended; decreases the voluntary expenditure limit for State Senator from \$30,000 to \$25,000 and decreases the expenditure limit for State Representative from \$7,500 to \$5,000; removes the monetary penalty for a candidate's failure to adhere to the candidate's pledge to limit campaign expenditures; clarifies that the expenditure limits can not be carried forward; and adds a provision requiring the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to publish a list of candidates who file a statement to voluntarily limit campaign finances. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.