

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 443

H.P. 322

House of Representatives, February 6, 1995

An Act to Place a Spending Cap on State Senate and House Campaigns.

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 LEMONT of Kittery.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BAILEY of Township 27, CAMERON of Rumford, CAMPBELL of Holden, CHICK of Lebanon, FISHER of Brewer, JOSEPH of Waterville, LIBBY of Kennebunk, LIBBY of Buxton, McALEVEY of Waterboro, MURPHY of Berwick, NASS of Acton, OTT of York, PLOWMAN of Hampden, ROBICHAUD of Caribou, TAYLOR of Cumberland, TUFTS of Stockton Springs, TUTTLE of Sanford, VIGUE of Winslow, Senator: LAWRENCE of York.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1013-A, sub-§1, ¶C** is enacted to read:

6 C. No later than 10 days after appointing a treasurer, and
8 before accepting contributions, making expenditures or
10 incurring obligations, a candidate for the office of State
12 House of Representatives or Senate shall file in writing a
14 statement declaring either that the candidate agrees to
16 accept voluntary limits on political expenditures or that
18 the candidate does not agree to accept voluntary limits on
20 political expenditures, as specified in section 1015,
22 subsections 7 to 9.

24 The statement filed by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to
26 limit spending must state that the candidate knows the
28 voluntary expenditure limitations as set out in section
30 1015, subsection 8 and that the candidate is voluntarily
32 agreeing to limit the candidate's political expenditures and
34 those made on behalf of the candidate by the candidate's
36 political committee or committees, the candidate's party and
38 the candidate's immediate family to the amount set by law.
40 The statement must further state that the candidate does not
42 condone and will not solicit any independent expenditures
44 made on behalf of the candidate.

46 The statement filed by a candidate who does not agree to
48 voluntarily limit political expenditures must state that the
50 candidate does not accept the voluntary expenditure limits
52 as set out in section 1015, subsection 8.

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

34 **7. Voluntary limitations on political expenditures.** A
36 candidate may voluntarily agree to limit the candidate's campaign
38 expenditures on the candidate's behalf as specified in section
40 1013-A, subsection 1, paragraph C and subsections 8 and 9.

42 **8. Political expenditure limitation amounts.** Total
44 aggregate expenditures in any single campaign in an election for
46 legislative office by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit
48 campaign expenditures as provided in subsection 7 are as follows:

44 A. For State Senator, \$30,000; and

46 B. For State Representative, \$7,500.

48 **9. Penalties for candidates who agree to voluntarily limit**
50 **campaign expenditures and exceed limits.** A candidate who agrees
52 to voluntarily limit campaign expenditures and makes total
expenditures in excess of the limit established by subsection 8
shall pay an amount equal to 100% of total expenditures in excess
of that limit to the commission. The money collected must be set

2 aside in a nonlapsing account to be used by the commission for
3 administrative purposes.

4 For the purposes of subsections 7, 8 and this subsection, "total
5 expenditures" means the sum of all expenditures made to influence
6 either a state primary election or a state general election made
7 by a candidate and made on the candidate's behalf by the
8 candidate's political committee or committees, the candidate's
9 party and the candidate's immediate family.

10

12

STATEMENT OF FACT

14 This bill establishes voluntary limits on campaign spending
15 for State House of Representatives and Senate elections. The
16 bill requires all candidates to file with their registration and
17 notification of a political committee a written statement of
18 intent to abide by the voluntary expenditure limits or not to
19 abide by the voluntary expenditure limits.

20

22 If any candidate agrees to the voluntary limits and exceeds
23 the amount set by law, that candidate must pay 100% of the amount
24 that exceeds the limit to the Commission on Governmental Ethics
and Election Practices.