

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

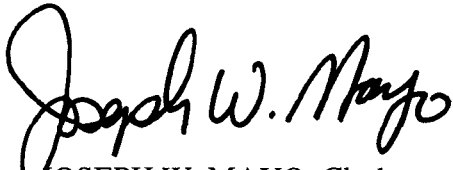
No. 623

H.P. 457

House of Representatives, February 23, 1995

An Act to Set Spending Limits for Legislative Campaigns.

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative TUTTLE of Sanford.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§§7 to 9** are enacted to read:

6 **7. Voluntary limitations on political expenditures.** A
8 candidate may voluntarily agree to limit the candidate's campaign
10 expenditures and those of the candidate's political committee or
committees, the candidate's party and the candidate's immediate
family on the candidate's behalf by filing an affidavit with the
Secretary of State.

12 **A.** The affidavit must state that the candidate knows the
14 voluntary expenditure limitations as set out in subsection 8
and that the candidate is voluntarily agreeing to limit the
16 candidate's political expenditures and those made on the
candidate's behalf by the candidate's political committee or
18 committees, the candidate's party and the candidate's
immediate family to the amount set pursuant to subsection 8
20 and other provisions of law. The affidavit must further
state that the candidate does not condone and will not
22 solicit any independent expenditures made on behalf of the
candidate. The affidavit must be sworn and subscribed to by
the candidate and notarized.

24 **B.** Affidavits in compliance with this subsection must be
26 filed within 3 days after the date on which a candidate
files a declaration of candidacy or a declaration of intent
28 or is declared a write-in winner of a primary election.

30 **8. Political expenditure limitation amounts.** Total
32 expenditures by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit
campaign expenditures as provided in subsection 7 are as follows:

34 **A.** For State Senator:

36 (1) Ten thousand dollars; and

38 **B.** For State Representative:

40 (1) Five thousand dollars.

42 For the purposes of this subsection and subsection 7, "total
44 expenditures" means the sum of all expenditures made to influence
either a statewide primary election or a statewide general
46 election made by a candidate and those made on the candidate's
behalf by the candidate's political committee or committees, the
candidate's party and the candidate's immediate family. Each
48 campaign expenditure limitation amount applies solely and
independently to either the statewide primary election or the
50 state general election.

2 9. Penalty. A candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit
4 campaign expenditures, as provided in subsections 7 and 8, and
6 who exceeds the total political expenditure limitation as
8 provided in subsections 7 and 8 in running for State Senator or
 State Representative is subject to a fine schedule based on the
 percentage by which the candidate exceeds permitted campaign
 expenditures, so that the candidate pays a percentage of the
 excess campaign expenditures as follows:

10 A. Candidates for State Senate:

12 (1) Under \$100, 1%;

14 (2) \$100 to \$500, 10%;

16 (3) \$500 to \$1,000, 25%;

18 (4) \$1,000 to \$5,000, 50%; and

20 (5) Over \$5,000, 100%; and

22 B. Candidates for State Representative:

24 (1) Under \$100, 1%;

26 (2) \$100 to \$250, 10%;

28 (3) \$250 to \$500, 25%;

30 (4) \$500 to \$1,000, 50%; and

32 (5) Over \$1,000, 100%.

34 Any fine assessed under the provisions of this subsection is paid
36 to the candidate's opponent.

38 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

40 This bill establishes limits on campaign spending and allows
42 candidates to limit voluntarily the amount of money they spend on
44 a campaign. The bill also sets up a penalty schedule for
 candidates who exceed the voluntary spending limits.