

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1098

S.P. 410

In Senate, March 30, 1995

An Act to Voluntarily Limit Campaign Spending.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§§7, 8 and 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
12 committees, the candidate's party and the candidate's immediate
14 family on the candidate's behalf by filing an affidavit with the
16 Secretary of State.

18 A. The affidavit must state that the candidate knows the
20 voluntary expenditure limitations as set out in subsection 8
22 and that the candidate is voluntarily agreeing to limit the
24 candidate's political expenditures and those made on the
26 candidate's behalf by the candidate's political committee or
28 committees, the candidate's party and the candidate's
30 immediate family to the amount set by law. The affidavit
32 must further state that the candidate does not condone and
34 will not solicit any independent expenditures made on behalf
36 of the candidate. The affidavit must be sworn and
38 subscribed to by the candidate and notarized.

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

46 A. For Governor and United States Senator:

48 (1) Five hundred thousand dollars in a state primary
50 election; and

52 (2) One and 1/2 million dollars in a state general
54 election;

56 B. For Representative to Congress:

58 (1) Three hundred thousand dollars in a state primary
60 election; and

62 (2) Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars in a state
64 general election;

66 C. For State Senator:

68 (1) Fifteen thousand dollars in a state primary
70 election; and

72 (2) Thirty-five thousand dollars in a state general
74 election;

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D. For State Representative:

(1) Four thousand dollars in a state primary election;
and

(2) Eight thousand dollars in a state general
election; and

E. For representative to all county offices, based on the
latest figures filed with the Secretary of State:

(1) Twelve and 1/2 cents per registered voter in the
district or the county in a state primary election; and

(2) Twenty-five cents per registered voter in the
district or the county in a state general election.

For the purposes of this subsection and subsection 7, "total
expenditures" means the sum of all expenditures made to influence
either a state primary election or a state general 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 campaign
expenditure limitation amount applies solely and independently to
either the state primary election or the state general election.

9. Penalty. A candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit
campaign expenditures, as provided in subsections 7 and 8, and
who exceeds the total political expenditure limitation as
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:

A. Candidates for United States Senate and Governor:

(1) Under \$1,000, 1%;

(2) From \$1,000 to under \$5,000, 10%;

(3) From \$5,000 to under \$10,000, 25%;

(4) From \$10,000 to under \$50,000, 50%; and

(5) Over \$50,000, 100%;

B. Candidates for Representative to Congress:

- 2 (1) Under \$1,000, 1%;
4 (2) From \$1,000 to under \$5,000, 10%;
6 (3) From \$5,000 to under \$10,000, 25%;
8 (4) From \$10,000 to under \$25,000, 50%; and
10 (5) Over \$25,000, 100%;

12 C. Candidates for State Senate:

- 14 (1) Under \$100, 1%;
16 (2) From \$100 to under \$500, 10%;
18 (3) From \$500 to under \$1,000, 25%;
20 (4) From \$1,000 to under \$5,000, 50%; and
22 (5) Over \$5,000, 100%; and

24 D. Candidates for State Representative:

- 26 (1) Under \$100, 1%;
28 (2) From \$100 to under \$250, 10%;
30 (3) From \$250 to under \$500, 25%;
32 (4) From \$500 to under \$1,000, 50%; and
34 (5) Over \$1,000, 100%.

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

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

42 §1015-B. Complaints

44 A candidate or voter may make a complaint in writing to the
46 commission of a violation of the provisions of section 1015,
48 subsections 7 and 8.

50 1. Investigate. Upon receipt of a complaint, the
 commission shall review the complaint and if sufficient evidence
 of a violation is presented, conduct an investigation to
 determine whether a violation occurred.

