

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1015

L.D. 1299

2

DATE: 6/2/95

(Filing No. H- 354)

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6

MINORITY
LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

8

10 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of
the House.

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

16

18

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 923, L.D. 1299, Bill, "An
Act to Restrict Private Political Campaign Contributions in State
Elections"

22

Amend the bill by inserting after section 26 the following:

24

'Sec. 27. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from
Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of this Act.

28

1996-97

30

MAINE ELECTIONS AND ETHICS COMMISSION

32

Maine Elections and Ethics Commission

34

Positions - Other Count	(4.0)
Personal Services	\$94,726
All Other	2,854,114
Capital Expenditures	11,160

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Provides funds for a Statistician III
position, an Auditor position, an
Administrative Assistant position, a Clerk
Typist II position, 5 seasonal Data Entry
Specialist positions and computer
programming and for general operating
expenses required to administer the fund,
provide enforcement, pay for administrative
costs and monitor the campaign
expenditures. This allocation also includes
funds to be distributed to eligible
candidates.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1008

MAINE ELECTIONS AND ETHICS COMMISSION

2

TOTAL

\$2,960,000'

4

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

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8

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

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12

FISCAL NOTE

14

1996-97

16

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

18

Other Funds

\$2,960,000

20

REVENUES

22

Other Funds

\$2,960,000

24

This bill replaces the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices with the independent 6-member Maine Elections and Ethics Commission. The current commission will remain intact and carry out its functions until each member of the Maine Elections and Ethics Commission is in place.

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This bill establishes the Maine Democracy Fund to finance gubernatorial and state legislative campaigns. Dedicated revenue from a \$4 Maine taxpayer filing fee will generate approximately \$2,960,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 1996-97. This estimate is based on approximately 740,000 Maine residents paying the \$4 fee for the 1996 tax year. The costs to administer this new fee by the Bureau of Taxation can not be determined at this time.

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The fund will also realize additional dedicated revenue from lobbyist fees and candidate filing fees. The amounts generated by these fees can not be estimated at this time.

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The commission will require an allocation of \$2,960,000 beginning in fiscal year 1996-97 to administer the fund, provide enforcement, pay for administrative costs and monitor the campaign expenditures. Included in this allocation are funds to be distributed to eligible candidates. The amounts required for distribution to eligible candidates and whether the fund will have sufficient resources to provide for the required

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2 of 6

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 923, L.D. 1299

2 distributions to candidates also can not be determined at this time.

4 The commission may need to request a special session of the
6 Legislature to discuss required reports regarding methods of
8 audit and accountability. The additional General Fund
appropriations required by the Legislature can not be determined
at this time.

10 This bill may increase prosecutions for Class E crimes. If
12 a jail sentence is imposed, the additional costs to the counties
are estimated to be \$83.22 per day per prisoner. These costs are
14 not reimbursed by the State. The number of prosecutions that may
result in a jail sentence and the resulting costs to the county
16 jail system are expected to be insignificant.

18 The additional workload and administrative costs associated
with the number of new cases filed in the court system can be
20 absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial
Department. The collection of additional fines may increase
22 General Fund revenues by a minor amount.'

24 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

26 This amendment adds an allocation section and a fiscal note
28 to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT