

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 501

S.P. 172

In Senate, January 28, 1997

**An Act to Prohibit Political Action Committee and Corporate
Contributions in State Elections.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of York.
Cosponsored by Representative: VEDRAL of Buxton.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1011, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

6 This subchapter applies to candidates for all state and
8 county offices and to campaigns for their nomination and
10 election. This subchapter also applies to candidates for federal
12 offices for the purposes of section 1015, subsections 2-A and 4-A
14 and section 1017, subsection 1.

12 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1985, c.
14 161, §6, is amended to read:

16 **2. Committees and associations.** No A political committee,
18 other committee, ~~corporation~~ or association may not make
20 contributions to a candidate, in support of the candidacy of one
22 person, aggregating more than \$5,000 in any election.

20 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§§2-A and 4-A** are enacted to read:

22 **2-A. Corporations.** A corporation may not make a
24 contribution to a candidate for a state office.

26 **4-A. Political action committees.** A political action
28 committee required to be registered under section 1053 may not
30 make a contribution to a candidate for a state office.

30 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1051, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1995, c.
32 483, §16, is further amended to read:

32 This subchapter applies to the activities of political
34 action committees organized in and outside this State that accept
36 contributions, incur obligations or make expenditures in an
38 aggregate amount in excess of \$50 in any one calendar year for
40 the election of ~~state- or~~ county or municipal officers, or for the
42 support or defeat of any campaign, as defined in this subchapter.

38 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1052-A** is enacted to read:

40 **§1052-A. Contributions to candidates for state office prohibited**

42 A political action committee may not make a contribution to
44 a candidate for a state office.

46 **Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1056, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1985, c.
48 161, §6, is amended to read:

48 **1. Aggregate expenditures.** No A committee may not make
50 expenditures in support of or opposition to the candidacy of one

2 person or to a political committee in an aggregate amount greater
than \$5,000 in any election.

4 A committee may not make expenditures to a candidate for the
6 State Legislature.

8 **Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §1058**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 483, §19,
is further amended to read:

10 **§1058. Reports; qualifications for filing**

12 A political action committee that is registered with the
14 commission or that accepts contributions or incurs obligations in
an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 on any one or more campaigns
16 for ~~the office of Governor, for state or~~ county office or for the
support or defeat of a referendum or initiated petition shall
18 file a report on its activities in that campaign with the
commission on forms as prescribed by the commission. A political
20 action committee organized in this State required under this
section to file a report shall file the report for each filing
22 period under section 1059. A political action committee
organized outside this State shall file with the Commission on
24 Governmental Ethics and Election Practices of this State a copy
of the report that the political action committee is required to
26 file in the state in which the political action committee is
organized. The political action committee shall file the copy
28 only if it has expended funds or received contributions or made
expenditures in this State. The copy of the report must be filed
30 in accordance with the schedule of filing in the state where it
is organized. If contributions or expenditures are made relating
32 to a municipal office or referendum, a copy of the report must be
filed with the clerk in the subject municipality. Any person or
34 organization organized to oppose a question to be voted on by the
electorate at referendum shall report, within 10 days following
36 the drafting of the question by the Secretary of State and prior
to the distribution of any petitions for voter signatures
38 pursuant to chapter 11, to the commission as required in this
section and sections 1059 and 1060.

40

SUMMARY

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44 This bill prohibits corporations and political action
committees from making contributions to candidates for state
office.