

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1915

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H.P. 1365

House of Representatives, December 5, 1997

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**An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Filing of Municipal Campaign Reports.**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 3, 1997. Referred to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CIANCHETTE of South Portland.

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

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**Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1058**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 483, §19, is further amended to read:

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

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

**Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2502, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 483, §22, is further amended to read:

**2. Municipal referenda campaigns.** Municipal referenda campaigns in towns or cities with a population of 15,000 or more are governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter IV. ~~Copies of~~ The registrations and reports of political action committees must be filed with the municipal clerk. A town or city with a population of less than 15,000 may choose to be governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter IV by vote of its legislative body at least 90 days before a referendum election. A town or city that votes to adopt those provisions may revoke that decision, but it must do so at least 90 days before an election subject to that subchapter.

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## SUMMARY

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The bill amends the law governing campaign reports in municipal elections and referenda in towns or cities of 15,000 or more to require that, rather than copies of registrations and reports, actual registrations and reports of political action committees be filed with the municipal clerk.

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