MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 214

S.P. 46

In Senate, January 18, 2001

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Campaign Contributions.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.

Cosponsored by Representative MENDROS of Lewiston and

Senators: FERGUSON of Oxford, KNEELAND of Aroostook, WOODCOCK of Franklin,

Representatives: GOOLEY of Farmington, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland.

Re	it	enacted	hv	the	Peo	nle :	οf	the	State	οf	Maine	96	follows:
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2	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
	Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§2, as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1,
4	§17, is amended to read:
6	2. Restrictions on contributions for participating candidates. Subsequent to becoming a candidate as defined by
8	section 1, subsection 5 and prior to certification, a participating candidate may not accept contributions, except for
10	seed money contributions and individual contributions of \$50 or less, up to a maximum of \$2000. A participating candidate must
12	limit the candidate's seed money contributions to the following amounts:
14	
	A. Fifty thousand dollars for a gubernatorial candidate;
16	B. One thousand five hundred dollars for a candidate for
18	the State Senate; or
20	C. Five hundred dollars for a candidate for the State House of Representatives.
22	
24	The commission may, by rule, revise these the amounts of seed money contributions to ensure the effective implementation of this chapter.
26	chis chapter.
28	Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§5, ¶D, as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1, §17, is amended to read:
30	D. Not accepted contributions, except for seed money contributions and individual contributions of \$50 or less up
32	to a maximum of \$2000, and otherwise complied with seed money restrictions; and
34	
	Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§§6, 9 and 13, as enacted by IB
36	1995, c. 1, $\S17$, are amended to read:
38	6. Restrictions on contributions and expenditures for certified candidates. After certification, a candidate must
40	limit the candidate's campaign expenditures and obligations, including outstanding obligations, to the revenues distributed to

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commission shall

campaign-related expenditures.

the candidate from the fund and may not accept any contributions. except for individual contributions of \$50 or less up to a

commission. All revenues distributed to certified candidates from the fund must be used for campaign-related purposes. The

publish guidelines outlining permissible

maximum of \$2000, unless specifically authorized by

9. Matching funds. When any campaign, finance or election report shows that the sum of a candidate's expenditures or obligations, or funds raised or borrowed, whichever is greater, alone or in conjunction with independent expenditures reported under section 1019, exceeds the distribution amount under subsection 8 and the total amount of individual contributions allowed under this chapter, the commission shall issue immediately to any opposing Maine Clean Election Act candidate an additional amount equivalent to the reported excess. Matching funds are limited to 2 times the amount originally distributed under subsection 8, paragraph A or C, whichever is applicable.

13. Distributions not to exceed amount in fund. The commission may not distribute revenues to certified candidates in excess of the total amount of money deposited in the fund as set forth in section 1124. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, if the commission determines that the revenues in the fund are insufficient to meet distributions under subsections 8 or 9, the commission may permit certified candidates to accept and spend contributions, reduced by any seed money contributions and the total amount of individual contributions allowed under this chapter, aggregating no more than \$500 per donor per election for gubernatorial candidates and \$250 per donor per election for State Senate and State House candidates, up to the applicable amounts set forth in subsections 8 and 9 according to rules adopted by the commission.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the Maine Clean Election Act to permit a qualified candidate to accept individual contributions less than or equal to \$50 aggregating less than \$2000. These contributions would be in addition to money distributed to a qualified candidate from the Maine Clean Election Fund.