

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 501

S.P. 157

In Senate, February 6, 2001

An Act to Reform Certain Features of the Clean Election Law.

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 MILLS of Somerset.

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

2
3 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1019, first ¶,** as repealed and replaced by
4 IB 1995, c. 1, §14, is amended to read:

6 For the purposes of this section, an independent expenditure
7 is any contribution or expenditure by a person, party committee,
8 political committee or political action committee aggregating in
9 excess of \$50 in an election that expressly advocates the
10 election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, other than
11 by contribution to a candidate or a candidate's authorized
12 political committee. An independent expenditure includes any
13 public communication made within 60 days prior to an election
14 that casts a candidate, identified by name, in a favorable or
15 unfavorable light as determined by the commission. Any person,
16 party committee, political committee or political action
17 committee that makes an independent expenditure must file a
18 report with the commission. In the case of a municipal election,
19 a copy of the same information must be filed with the clerk in
20 that candidate's municipality.

22 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§7, ¶A,** as enacted by IB 1995, c.
23 1, §17, is amended to read:

24 A. Of ~~\$5~~ \$10 in the form of a check or a money order
25 payable to the fund in support of a candidate;

28 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§8, ¶B,** as enacted by IB 1995, c.
29 1, §17, is amended to read:

30 B. For State Senate or State House of Representatives
31 participating candidates, the qualifying period begins
32 January-1st-~~of~~ on the December 15th immediately preceding
33 the election year and ends at 5:00 p.m. on March 16th of
34 that election year unless the candidate is unenrolled, in
35 which case the period ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 2nd of the
36 election year.

38
39
40 **SUMMARY**

42 This bill amends the elections laws in the following ways.

44 1. It amends the definition of "independent expenditure" to
45 include any public communication made within 60 days prior to an
46 election that casts a candidate, identified by name, in a
47 favorable or unfavorable light.

48 2. It increases the amount of the qualifying contribution
49 that may be made under the Maine Clean Election Act from \$5 to
50 \$10.

2 3. It changes the date after which a candidate for the
Legislature may begin to collect qualifying contributions under
4 the Maine Clean Election Act from January 1st of the election
year to December 15th of the year immediately preceding the
6 election year.