

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 232

S.P. 91

In Senate, January 23, 2003

An Act Concerning Political Action Committees and Party Committee Activities Prior to 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 HALL of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative EARLE of Damariscotta and
Senators: President DAGGETT of Kennebec, DAMON of Hancock, TREAT of Kennebec,
Representative: Speaker COLWELL of Gardiner.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1017-B** is enacted to read:

6 **§1017-B. Publication or distribution of communications**

8 If a party committee intends to publish for the first time a
10 communication designed to influence an election within the 10
12 days preceding the election, the party committee shall first
14 submit the communication to the commission and make the
16 communication available to the public not less than 72 hours
18 before publication of the communication. For purposes of this
20 section, "publish" means to disseminate to the public by any
means, including to mail; broadcast by Internet, radio,
television or other electronic media; telephone; insert or print
in a newspaper, magazine or other periodical; or distribute by
hand. The publication of a communication in violation of this
section may result in a civil penalty of no more than \$200.
Enforcement and collection procedures must be in accordance with
section 1062-A.

22 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1055**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 430, §9,
24 is further amended by inserting after the 2nd paragraph a new
paragraph to read:

26 If a political action committee intends to publish for the
28 first time a communication designed to influence an election
30 within the 10 days preceding the election, the political action
32 committee shall first submit the communication to the commission
34 and make the communication available to the public not less than
72 hours before publication of the communication. For purposes
of this section, "publish" means to disseminate to the public by
any means, including to mail; broadcast by Internet, radio,
television or other electronic media; telephone; insert or print
in a newspaper, magazine or other periodical; or distribute by
hand.

38 **SUMMARY**

40 This bill requires political action and party committees to
42 submit to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election
44 Practices and make available to the general public at least 72
46 hours before publication any communication designed to influence
an election that is intended to be published for the first time
within the 10 days preceding the election.