MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1272

H.P. 944

House of Representatives, March 11, 2003

An Act To Specify the Political Party of Contributors of Qualifying Contributions and To Require a Candidate Funded under the Maine Clean Election Act To Receive a Certain Level of Support in Order To Receive Public Funding in the Future

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERRY of Bangor. Cosponsored by Representatives: DUNLAP of Old Town, THOMAS of Orono, Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, GAGNON of Kennebec, SAWYER of Penobscot.

Be	it	enacted	by	the	People	of	the	State	of	M	aine	as	follows:
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Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2001, c.
4 465, §4, is further amended to read:

- 3. Qualifying contributions. Participating candidates must obtain qualifying contributions during the qualifying period as follows:
- 10 A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least 2,500 verified registered voters of this State who are enrolled in the candidate's political party must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate;
- B. For a candidate for the State Senate, at least 150 verified registered voters from the candidate's electoral division who are enrolled in the candidate's political party must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate; ex
 - C. For a candidate for the State House of Representatives, at least 50 verified registered voters from the candidate's electoral division who are enrolled in the candidate's political party must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate; or
- D. For a candidate who is not enrolled in a qualified
 political party, at least 5,000 qualifying contributions
 must be raised for a gubernatorial candidate, 300 for a
 State Senate candidate and 100 for a State House of
 Representatives candidate.

A payment, gift or anything of value may not be given in exchange for a qualifying contribution. A candidate may pay the fee for a money order in the amount of \$5, which is a qualifying contribution, as long as the donor making the qualifying contribution pays the \$5 amount reflected on the money order. Any money order fees paid by a participating candidate must be paid for with seed money and reported in accordance with commission rules.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§15 is enacted to read:

- 15. Certain prior candidates ineligible. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a candidate is ineligible to receive revenues from the fund if:
- A. That candidate received revenues from the fund in a prior election;

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	B. That candidate is a candidate for the same office for
2	which the candidate received the revenue described in
	paragraph A; and
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	C. In the prior election described in paragraph A, the
6	candidate received less than 15% of the total votes cast for
•	that office.
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10	SUMMARY
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12	Commont los magaines that a condidate intending to
1.4	Current law requires that a candidate intending to
	participate as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate obtain a
14	specified number of qualifying contributions. This bill requires
	that those qualifying contributions be provided by registered
16	voters who are enrolled as members of the candidate's political
	party. The bill also establishes minimum numbers of qualifying
18	contributions necessary for candidates who are not enrolled in a
	qualified political party.
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	This bill also prohibits a person from receiving Maine Clear
22	Election Act revenue if the person received such revenue when a
	candidate for the same office in a prior election and the person
24	failed to receive at least 15% of the total votes cast for that
	office in the prior election.
	office in the prior election.