

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1310

H.P. 964

House of Representatives, March 11, 2003

An Act To Improve the Clean Election Option for Gubernatorial Candidates

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CUMMINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by President DAGGETT of Kennebec and
Representatives: ANNIS of Dover-Foxcroft, CANAVAN of Waterville, CLARK of
Millinocket, Speaker COLWELL of Gardiner, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, PATRICK of
Rumford, SIMPSON of Auburn, Senator: MAYO of Sagadahoc.

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§8, ¶A, as amended by PL 2001, c. 465, §3, is further amended to read:

A. For a gubernatorial participating candidate, the qualifying period begins ~~November~~ June 1st immediately preceding the election year and ends at 5:00 p.m. on April 15th of the election year unless the candidate is unenrolled, in which case the period ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 2nd of the election year.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1, §17, is amended to read:

A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least ~~2,500~~ 3,500 verified registered voters of this State must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate;

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2001, c. 465, §5, is further amended to read:

8. Amount of fund distribution. By July 1, 1999 of the effective date of this Act, and at least every 4 years after that date, the commission shall determine the amount of funds to be distributed to participating candidates based on the type of election and office as follows.

A. For contested legislative primary elections, the amount of revenues to be distributed is the average amount of campaign expenditures made by each candidate during all contested primary election races for the immediately preceding 2 primary elections, as reported in the initial filing period subsequent to the primary election, for the respective offices of ~~Governor,~~ State Senate and State House of Representatives.

B. For uncontested legislative primary elections, the amount of revenues distributed is the average amount of campaign expenditures made by each candidate during all uncontested primary election races, ~~or for contested races if that amount is lower,~~ for the immediately preceding 2 primary elections, as reported in the initial filing period subsequent to the primary election, for the respective offices of ~~Governor,~~ State Senate and State House of Representatives.

C. For contested legislative general elections, the amount of revenues distributed is the average amount of campaign

expenditures made by each candidate during all contested general election races for the immediately preceding 2 general elections, as reported in the initial filing period subsequent to the general election for the respective offices of Governor, State Senate and State House of Representatives.

D. For uncontested legislative general elections, the amount of revenues to be distributed from the fund is 40% of the amount distributed to a participating candidate in a contested general election.

E. For gubernatorial primary elections, the amount of revenues distributed is the average amount of campaign expenditures made by each gubernatorial candidate receiving more than 5% of the vote during all gubernatorial primary election races for the immediately preceding 4 primary elections, as reported in the initial filing period subsequent to the primary election.

F. For gubernatorial general elections, the amount of revenues distributed is the average amount of campaign expenditures made by all gubernatorial candidates receiving more than 5% of the vote during all contested general election races for the immediately preceding 4 general elections, as reported in the initial filing period subsequent to the general election.

If the immediately preceding two election cycles do not contain sufficient electoral data, the commission shall use information from the most recent applicable elections. ~~For only the initial computations under subsections A to C that are conducted by July 1, 1999, the commission shall reduce the amounts to be distributed by 25%.~~

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§9, as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1, §17, is amended to read:

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, 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, E or F, whichever is applicable.

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SUMMARY

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This bill amends the Maine Clean Election Act as follows.

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1. It provides that, for a gubernatorial participating candidate, the qualifying period begins June 1st, instead of November 1st.

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2. It increases the number of qualifying contributions required from 2,500 to 3,500.

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3. It specifies that for gubernatorial primary elections, the amount of revenues distributed is the average amount of campaign expenditures made by candidates who received more than 5% of the vote based on the preceding 4 primary elections.

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4. It specifies that for gubernatorial general elections, the amount of revenues distributed is the average amount of campaign expenditures made by candidates who received more than 5% of the vote based on the preceding 4 general elections.

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