

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 508

H.P. 391

House of Representatives, February 1, 2007

An Act Concerning Citizens' Initiatives and Public Disclosure of Influence

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DILL of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Senator MARRACHÉ of Kennebec and
Representatives: BLISS of South Portland, CAIN of Orono, CASAVANT of Biddeford,
MILLS of Farmington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1056-B, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 729, §8, is
3 amended to read:

4 Any person not defined as a political committee who solicits and receives
5 contributions or makes expenditures, other than by contribution to a political action
6 committee, aggregating in excess of ~~\$1,500~~ \$3,000 for the purpose of initiating,
7 promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot question must file a report with
8 the commission. In the case of a municipal election, a copy of the same information must
9 be filed with the clerk of that municipality.

10 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1056-B, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

11 **1-A. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
12 following terms have the following meanings.

13 A. "Expenditure" includes any staff time used and any in-kind expenditures made for
14 the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot
15 question.

16 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1056-B, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

17 **4. Identification of excess contributions.** If the reported contributions exceed the
18 reported expenditures by more than \$5,000, the person filing the report under this section
19 shall identify the sources of the contributions that make up the difference.

20

SUMMARY

21 This bill raises the amount of contributions or expenditures that triggers the
22 requirement for a person not defined as a political committee but who solicits
23 contributions or makes expenditures to influence a ballot question to file a report with the
24 Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The
25 bill also classifies in-kind expenditures and staff time as expenditures for purposes of
26 reporting and requires the identification of contributions that make up a difference when
27 contributions exceed expenditures by more than \$5,000.