

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1499

S.P. 526

March 19, 2007

An Act To Improve the Maine Clean Election Act

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 DIAMOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative GERZOFKY of Brunswick.

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

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

4 B. For a candidate for the State Senate, at least ~~150~~ 300 verified registered voters
5 from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy by providing a
6 qualifying contribution to that candidate; or

7 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 542, §3, is
8 further amended to read:

9 **6. Restrictions on contributions and expenditures for certified candidates.** After
10 certification, a candidate must limit the candidate's campaign expenditures and
11 obligations, including outstanding obligations, to the revenues distributed to the candidate
12 from the fund and may not accept any contributions unless specifically authorized by the
13 commission. Candidates may also accept and spend interest earned on bank accounts.
14 Candidates may also accept the offer of an organization that is independent of the
15 candidate and the candidate's committee to send a mailing. All revenues distributed to a
16 certified candidate from the fund must be used for campaign-related purposes. The
17 candidate, the treasurer, the candidate's committee authorized pursuant to section 1013-A,
18 subsection 1 or any agent of the candidate and committee may not use these revenues for
19 any but campaign-related purposes. These revenues may not be used for meals or for
20 maintenance of motor vehicles. The commission shall publish guidelines outlining
21 permissible campaign-related expenditures.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill makes the following changes to the Maine Clean Election Act.

24 1. It increases the number of qualifying contributions that a candidate for the State
25 Senate must collect from 150 to 300.

26 2. It prohibits the use of revenues that a candidate receives from the Maine Clean
27 Election Fund from being used for meals or for maintenance of motor vehicles.

28 3. It permits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate to accept the offer of an
29 organization that is independent of the candidate and the candidate's committee to send a
30 mailing.