

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1729

H.P. 1212

House of Representatives, March 26, 2007

**An Act To Allow Contributors to Candidates Financed by the Maine  
Clean Election Fund To Submit Qualifying Contributions Online**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TRINWARD of Waterville.  
Cosponsored by Senator MARRACHÉ of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BEAUDOIN of Biddeford, BOLAND of Sanford, CANAVAN of Waterville,  
CROCKETT of Augusta, PEOPLES of Westbrook, PINKHAM of Lexington Township,  
PRATT of Eddington, SILSBY of Augusta.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§7, ¶A,** as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1, §17, is  
3 amended to read:

4 A. Of \$5 in the form of a check or a money order or by credit card payable to the  
5 fund in support of a candidate;

6 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2001, c. 465, §4, is  
7 further amended to read:

8 **3. Qualifying contributions.** Participating candidates must obtain qualifying  
9 contributions during the qualifying period as follows:

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

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

15 C. For a candidate for the State House of Representatives, at least 50 verified  
16 registered voters from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy  
17 by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate.

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

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill allows a qualifying contribution under the Maine Clean Election Act to be  
27 paid by a credit card over the Internet.