

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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No. 1854

S.P. 668

April 12, 2007

An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Reporting and the Maine Clean Election Act

Reported by Senator MARRACHÉ of Kennebec for the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 1009.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on April 11, 2007. Referred to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

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

2 **PART A**

3 **Sec. A-1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§13-A,** is enacted to read:

4 **13-A. Domestic partner.** "Domestic partner" means one of 2 unmarried adults who
5 are domiciled together under long-term arrangements that evidence a commitment to
6 remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare.

7 **Sec. A-2. 21-A MRSA §1001, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is
8 amended to read:

9 **3. Person.** "Person" means an individual, committee, firm, partnership, corporation,
10 association, ~~group~~ or organization.

11 **Sec. A-3. 21-A MRSA §1002,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2001, c. 667, Pt. A,
12 §43, is amended to read:

13 **§1002. Meetings of commission**

14 The commission shall meet in Augusta for the purposes of this chapter at least once
15 per month in any year in which primary and general elections are held and every 2 weeks
16 in the 60 days preceding an election. In the 28 days preceding an election, the
17 commission shall meet in Augusta within one calendar day of the filing of any complaint
18 or question with the commission. Agenda items in the 28 days preceding an election
19 must be decided within 24 hours of the filing unless all parties involved agree otherwise.
20 Meetings may be held over the telephone if necessary, as long as the commission office
21 remains open for attendance by complainants, witnesses and other members of the public.
22 Notwithstanding Title 1, chapter 13, telephone meetings of the commission are permitted
23 only during the 28 days prior to an election when the commission is required to meet
24 within 24 hours of the filing of any complaint or question with the commission. The
25 commission office must be open with adequate staff resources available to respond to
26 inquiries and receive complaints from ~~8 8:00 a.m. until at least 5:30 p.m. on the Saturday,~~
27 ~~Sunday and Monday immediately preceding an election and from 8 a.m. until at least 8~~
28 ~~p.m. on election day.~~ The commission shall meet at other times on the call of the Speaker
29 of the House, the President of the Senate, the chair or a majority of the members of the
30 commission, as long as all members are notified of the time, place and purpose of the
31 meeting at least 24 hours in advance.

32 **Sec. A-4. 21-A MRSA §1004-A, last ¶,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 628, Pt. A, §1,
33 is amended to read:

34 When the commission has reason to believe that a violation has occurred, the
35 commission shall provide written notice to the candidate, party committee, political
36 action committee, committee treasurer or other respondent and shall afford them an
37 opportunity to appear before the commission before assessing any penalty. In
38 determining any penalty under subsections 3, 4 and 5, the commission shall consider,
39 among other things, the level of intent to mislead, the penalty necessary to deter similar

1 misconduct in the future and the harm suffered by the public from the incorrect
2 disclosure.

3 **Sec. A-5. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§2, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 301, §7,
4 is further amended to read:

5 B. Does not include:

6 (1) The value of services provided without compensation by individuals who
7 volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political
8 committee;

9 (2) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and
10 beverages, voluntarily provided by an individual to a candidate in rendering
11 voluntary personal services for candidate-related activities, if the cumulative
12 value of these activities by the individual on behalf of any candidate does not
13 exceed \$100 with respect to any election;

14 (3) The sale of any food or beverage by a vendor for use in a candidate's
15 campaign at a charge less than the normal comparable charge, if the charge to the
16 candidate is at least equal to the cost of the food or beverages to the vendor and if
17 the cumulative value of the food or beverages does not exceed \$100 with respect
18 to any election;

19 (4) Any unreimbursed travel expenses incurred and paid for by an individual
20 who volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of
21 these expenses does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;

22 (4-A) Any unreimbursed campaign-related travel expenses incurred and paid for
23 by the candidate or the candidate's spouse or domestic partner;

24 (5) The payment by a party's state, district, county or municipal committee of the
25 costs of preparation, display or mailing or other distribution of a party candidate
26 listing;

27 (6) Documents, in printed or electronic form, including party platforms, single
28 copies of issue papers, information pertaining to the requirements of this Title,
29 lists of registered voters and voter identification information, created, obtained or
30 maintained by a political party for the general purpose of party building and
31 provided to a candidate who is a member of that party;

32 (7) Compensation paid by a political state party committee to ~~an employee of~~
33 ~~that party~~ its employees for the following purposes:

34 (a) Providing ~~advice~~ no more than a total of 20 hours of assistance from its
35 employees to any one a candidate for a period of no more than 20 hours in
36 any election;

37 (b) Recruiting and overseeing volunteers for campaign activities involving 3
38 or more candidates; or

39 (c) Coordinating campaign events involving 3 or more candidates;

40 (8) Campaign training sessions provided to 3 or more candidates;

1 (8-A) Costs paid for by a party committee in connection with a campaign event
2 at which 3 or more candidates are present;

3 (8-B) Wood or other materials used for political signs that are found or
4 contributed if not originally obtained by the candidate or contributor for
5 campaign purposes;

6 (8-C) The use or distribution of any communication, as described in section
7 1014, obtained by the candidate for a previous election and fully paid for during
8 that election;

9 (9) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that
10 use does not result in additional cost to the provider; or

11 (10) Activity or communication designed to encourage individuals to register to
12 vote or to vote if that activity or communication does not mention a clearly
13 identified candidate.

14 **Sec. A-6. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§3, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 301, §8,
15 is further amended to read:

16 B. Does not include:

17 (1) Any news story, commentary or editorial distributed through the facilities of
18 any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine or other periodical publication,
19 unless the facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political
20 committee ~~or~~, candidate or candidate's immediate family;

21 (1-A) Any communication distributed through a public access television station
22 if the communication complies with the laws and rules governing the station and
23 all candidates in the race have an equal opportunity to promote their candidacies
24 through the station;

25 (2) Activity or communication designed to encourage individuals to register to
26 vote or to vote if that activity or communication does not mention a clearly
27 identified candidate;

28 (3) Any communication by any membership organization or corporation to its
29 members or stockholders, if that membership organization or corporation is not
30 organized primarily for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of
31 any person to state or county office;

32 (4) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and
33 beverages, voluntarily provided by an individual to a candidate in rendering
34 voluntary personal services for candidate-related activities, if the cumulative
35 value of these activities does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;

36 (5) Any unreimbursed travel expenses incurred and paid for by an individual
37 who volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of
38 these expenses does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;

39 (5-A) Any unreimbursed campaign-related travel expenses incurred and paid for
40 by the candidate or the candidate's spouse or domestic partner;

- 1 (6) Any communication by any person that is not made for the purpose of
2 influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person to state or
3 county office;
- 4 (7) The payment by a party's state, district, county or municipal committee of the
5 costs of preparation, display or mailing or other distribution of a party candidate
6 listing;
- 7 (8) The use or distribution of any communication, as described in section 1014,
8 obtained by the candidate for a previous election and fully paid for during that
9 election campaign;
- 10 (9) Documents, in printed or electronic form, including party platforms, single
11 copies of issue papers, information pertaining to the requirements of this Title,
12 lists of registered voters and voter identification information, created or
13 maintained by a political party for the general purpose of party building and
14 provided to a candidate who is a member of that party;
- 15 (10) Compensation paid by a ~~political~~ state party committee to an employee of
16 that party its employees for the following purposes:
- 17 (a) Providing ~~advise~~ no more than a total of 20 hours of assistance from its
18 employees to any one a candidate for a period of no more than 20 hours in
19 any election;
- 20 (b) Recruiting and overseeing volunteers for campaign activities involving 3
21 or more candidates; or
- 22 (c) Coordinating campaign events involving 3 or more candidates;
- 23 (10-A) Costs paid for by a party committee in connection with a campaign event
24 at which 3 or more candidates are present;
- 25 (11) Campaign training sessions provided to 3 or more candidates;
- 26 (11-A) Wood or other materials used for political signs that are found or
27 contributed if not originally obtained by the candidate or contributor for
28 campaign purposes; or
- 29 (12) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that
30 use does not result in additional cost to the provider.

31 **Sec. A-7. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§5, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 301, §9, is
32 amended to read:

33 C. The treatment of all candidates in the communication is substantially similar,
34 except for any requirement under federal law applicable to communications regarding
35 federal candidates.

36 **Sec. A-8. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§5, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 301, §9, is
37 amended to read:

38 D. The content of the communication is limited to:

- 39 (1) The identification of each candidate, with which pictures may be used;

- 1 (2) The offices sought;
- 2 (3) The offices currently held by the candidates;
- 3 (4) The party affiliation of the candidates and a brief statement, including
- 4 campaign slogans, about the ~~party~~ party's or the candidates' positions, philosophy,
- 5 goals, accomplishments or biographies;
- 6 (5) Encouragement to vote for the candidates identified; ~~and~~
- 7 (6) Information about voting, such as voting hours and locations; and
- 8 (7) Campaign or party logos.

9 If the communication contains language outside the categories of this paragraph, it
10 does not qualify as a party candidate listing.

11 **Sec. A-9. 21-A MRSA §1013-A, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 729,
12 §1, is further amended to read:

13 C. No later than 10 days after becoming a candidate, as defined in section 1,
14 subsection 5, a candidate for the office of State House of Representatives or Senate
15 shall file in writing a statement declaring that the candidate agrees to accept voluntary
16 limits on political expenditures or that the candidate does not agree to accept
17 voluntary limits on political expenditures, as specified in section 1015, subsections 7
18 to 9, ~~or that the~~. A candidate who has filed a declaration of intent to become certified
19 as a candidate under the Maine Clean Election Act is not required to file the written
20 statement required by this paragraph.

21 The statement filed by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit spending must
22 state that the candidate knows the voluntary expenditure limitations as set out in
23 section 1015, subsection 8 and that the candidate is voluntarily agreeing to limit the
24 candidate's political expenditures and those made on behalf of the candidate by the
25 candidate's political committee or committees, the candidate's party and the
26 candidate's immediate family to the amount set by law. The statement must further
27 state that the candidate does not condone and will not solicit any independent
28 expenditures made on behalf of the candidate.

29 The statement filed by a candidate who does not agree to voluntarily limit political
30 expenditures must state that the candidate does not accept the voluntary expenditure
31 limits as set out in section 1015, subsection 8.

32 ~~The statement filed by a candidate who has filed a declaration of intent under the~~
33 ~~Maine Clean Election Act must state that the candidate will be bound by the~~
34 ~~expenditure limitations imposed by that Act.~~

35 **Sec. A-10. 21-A MRSA §1013-B**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 839, §7 and affected
36 by §34, is amended to read:

37 **§1013-B. Removal of treasurer; filling vacancy of treasurer; substantiation of**
38 **records of treasurer; notification to commission**

39 A candidate may remove any treasurer that the candidate has appointed. In case of a
40 vacancy in the position of treasurer of a candidate or treasurer of a political committee

1 before the obligations of the treasurer have been performed, the candidate shall serve as
2 treasurer from the date of the vacancy until the candidate appoints a successor and reports
3 the name and address of the successor to the commission. The candidate shall file a
4 written statement of resignation of a treasurer of a candidate or a treasurer of a political
5 committee and until that statement has been filed, the resignation is not effective. An
6 individual who vacates the position of treasurer by reason of removal or resignation shall
7 certify in writing the accuracy of the treasurer's records to the succeeding treasurer. A
8 succeeding treasurer may not be held responsible for the accuracy of the predecessor's
9 records.

10 **Sec. A-11. 21-A MRSA §1014**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 542, §1, is further
11 amended to read:

12 **§1014. Publication or distribution of political communications**

13 **1. Authorized by candidate.** Whenever a person makes an expenditure to finance a
14 communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified
15 candidate through broadcasting stations, newspapers, magazines, campaign signs or other
16 outdoor advertising facilities, publicly accessible sites on the Internet, direct mails or
17 other similar types of general public political advertising or through flyers, handbills,
18 bumper stickers and other nonperiodical publications, the communication, if authorized
19 by a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or their agents, must clearly
20 and conspicuously state that the communication has been so authorized and must clearly
21 state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the
22 communication. The following forms of political communication do not require the
23 name and address of the person who made or authorized the expenditure for the
24 communication because the name or address would be so small as to be illegible or
25 infeasible: ashtrays, badges and badge holders, balloons, campaign buttons, clothing,
26 coasters, combs, emery boards, envelopes, erasers, glasses, key rings, letter openers,
27 matchbooks, nail files, noisemakers, paper and plastic cups, pencils, pens, plastic
28 tableware, 12-inch or shorter rulers, swizzle sticks, tickets to fund-raisers and similar
29 items determined by the commission to be too small and unnecessary for the disclosures
30 required by this section. A communication financed by a candidate or the candidate's
31 committee that is made through a radio station is not required to state the address of the
32 candidate or committee that financed the communication.

33 **2. Not authorized by candidate.** If the communication described in subsection 1 is
34 not authorized by a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or their agents,
35 the communication must clearly and conspicuously state that the communication is not
36 authorized by any candidate and state the name and address of the person who made or
37 financed the expenditure for the communication. If the communication is in written
38 form, the communication must contain at the bottom of the communication in print that is
39 no smaller in size than 10-point bold print, Times New Roman font, the words "NOT
40 PAID FOR OR AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE."

41 **2-A. Other communications.** If Whenever a person makes an expenditure to
42 finance a communication that names or depicts a clearly identified candidate and that is
43 disseminated during the 21 days before an a primary election or 60 days before a general

1 election through the media described in subsection 1, the communication must state the
2 name and address of the person who made or financed the communication and a
3 statement that the communication was or was not authorized by the candidate. The
4 disclosure is not required if the communication was not made for the purpose of
5 influencing the candidate's nomination for election or election.

6 **3. Broadcasting prohibited without disclosure.** No person operating a
7 broadcasting station or agent of that person within this State may broadcast any
8 communication, as described in subsections 1 ~~and 2~~ to 2-A, without an oral or written
9 visual announcement of the ~~name of the person who made or financed the expenditure for~~
10 ~~the communication~~ disclosure required by this section.

11 **3-A. In-kind contributions of printed materials.** A candidate, political committee
12 or political action committee shall report on the campaign finance report as a contribution
13 to the candidate, political committee or political action committee any contributions of in-
14 kind printed materials to be used in the support of a candidate or in the support or defeat
15 of a cause to be voted upon at referendum. Any in-kind contributions of printed materials
16 used or distributed by a candidate, political committee or political action committee must
17 include the name or title of that candidate, political committee or political action
18 committee as the authorizing agent for the printing and distribution of the in-kind
19 contribution.

20 The use or distribution of in-kind printed materials contributed to a candidate, political
21 committee or political action committee must be reported as an expenditure on the
22 campaign finance report of that candidate, political committee or political action
23 committee.

24 **3-B. Newspapers.** A newspaper may not publish a communication described in
25 ~~subsection~~ subsections 1 or 2 to 2-A without including the disclosure required by this
26 section. For purposes of this subsection, "newspaper" includes any printed material
27 intended for general circulation or to be read by the general public, including a version of
28 the newspaper displayed on a website owned or operated by the newspaper. When
29 necessary, a newspaper may seek the advice of the commission regarding whether or not
30 the communication requires the disclosure.

31 **4. Enforcement.** An expenditure, communication or broadcast made within ~~10~~ 20
32 days before the election to which it relates that results in a violation of this section may
33 result in a civil fine of no more than \$200. The person who financed the communication
34 or who committed the violation shall correct the violation within 10 days after receiving
35 notification of the violation from the commission. An expenditure, communication or
36 broadcast made more than ~~10~~ 20 days before the election that results in a violation of this
37 section may result in a civil fine of no more than \$100 if the violation is not corrected
38 within 10 days after the ~~candidate~~ person who financed the communication or other
39 person who committed the violation receives notification of the violation from the
40 commission. If the commission determines that a person violated this section with the
41 intent to misrepresent the name or address of the person who made or financed the
42 communication or whether the communication was or was not authorized by the
43 candidate, the commission may impose a fine of no more than \$5,000 against the person

1 responsible for the communication. Enforcement and collection procedures must be in
2 accordance with section 1020-A.

3 **5. Telephone calls.** ~~Automated~~ Prerecorded automated telephone calls and scripted
4 live telephone communications that name a clearly identified candidate during the 21
5 days before a primary election or the 60 days before a general election must clearly state
6 the name of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication,
7 except for prerecorded automated telephone calls paid for by the candidate that use the
8 candidate's voice in the telephone call and that are made in support of that candidate.
9 Telephone calls made for the purposes of researching the views of voters are not required
10 to include the disclosure.

11 **Sec. A-12. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 729, §2, is
12 further amended to read:

13 **1. Individuals.** An individual may not make contributions to a candidate in support
14 of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than \$500 in any election for a
15 gubernatorial candidate or more than \$250 in any election for any other candidate. This
16 limitation does not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate or
17 that candidate's spouse or domestic partner.

18 **Sec. A-13. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 729, §2, is
19 further amended to read:

20 **2. Committees; corporations; associations.** A political committee, political action
21 committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation ~~or,~~ association or organization
22 may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person
23 aggregating more than \$500 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate or more than
24 \$250 in any election for any other candidate.

25 **Sec. A-14. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is
26 amended to read:

27 **3. Aggregate contributions.** No individual may make contributions to candidates
28 aggregating more than \$25,000 in any calendar year. This limitation does not apply to
29 contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate or ~~his~~ that candidate's spouse or
30 domestic partner.

31 **Sec. A-15. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is
32 amended to read:

33 **4. Political committees; intermediaries.** For the purpose of the limitations imposed
34 by this section, contributions made to any political committee authorized by a candidate
35 to accept contributions on the candidate's behalf are considered to be contributions made
36 to that candidate.

37 For the purposes of the limitations imposed by this section, all contributions made by a
38 person, either directly or indirectly, on behalf of a particular candidate, ~~including~~
39 ~~contributions which~~ that are in any way earmarked or otherwise directed through an

1 intermediary or conduit to the candidate, are considered to be contributions from that
2 person to the candidate. The intermediary or conduit shall report the original source and
3 the intended recipient of the contribution to the commission and to the intended recipient.

4 **Sec. A-16. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§8**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 729, §3, is
5 further amended to read:

6 **8. Political expenditure limitation amounts.** Total expenditures in any election for
7 legislative office by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit campaign expenditures as
8 provided in subsection 7 are as follows:

9 A. For State Senator, \$25,000; and

10 B. For State Representative, \$5,000; and

11 ~~C. For State Senator or State Representative as a candidate certified under the~~
12 ~~Maine Clean Election Act, to the extent authorized by that Act.~~

13 Expenditure limits are per election and may not be carried forward from one election to
14 another. For calculation and reporting purposes, the reporting periods established in
15 section 1017 apply.

16 **Sec. A-17. 21-A MRSA §1015-A, sub-§2** is enacted to read:

17 **2. Sole proprietorships.** A sole proprietorship and its owner are treated as a single
18 entity.

19 **Sec. A-18. 21-A MRSA §1017**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 542, §2, is further
20 amended to read:

21 **§1017. Reports by candidates**

22 ~~**1. Federal candidates.** The treasurer of the campaign committee of each candidate~~
23 ~~for federal office shall file with the commission a copy of the complete report required of~~
24 ~~them under federal law on the same date that those reports are required to be filed under~~
25 ~~federal law.~~

26 **2. Gubernatorial candidates.** A treasurer of a candidate for the office of Governor
27 shall file reports with the commission as follows. Once the first required report has been
28 filed, each subsequent report must cover the period from the ~~completion~~ end date of the
29 prior report filed.

30 A. In any calendar year, other than a gubernatorial election year, in which the
31 candidate or the candidate's political committee has received contributions in excess
32 of \$1,000 or made or authorized expenditures in excess of \$1,000, reports must be
33 filed no later than ~~5~~ 5:00 p.m. on July 15th of that year and January 15th of the
34 following calendar year. These reports must include all contributions made to and all
35 expenditures made or authorized by or on behalf of the candidate or the candidate's
36 treasurer as of the end of the preceding month, except those covered by a previous
37 report.

1 B. Reports must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 42nd day before the date on
2 which an election is held and must be complete as of the 49th day before that date. If
3 a report was not filed under paragraph A, the report required under this paragraph
4 must cover all contributions and expenditures through the ~~completion date~~ 49th day
5 before the election.

6 C. Reports must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the ~~6th~~ 11th day before the date
7 on which an election is held and must be complete as of the ~~12th~~ 14th day before that
8 date.

9 D. Contributions aggregating \$1,000 or more from any one contributor or single
10 expenditures of \$1,000 or more, made after the ~~12th~~ 14th day before the election, and
11 more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election, must be reported
12 within 24 hours of those contributions or expenditures.

13 E. Reports must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 42nd day after the date on
14 which an election is held and must be complete for the filing period as of the 35th day
15 after that date.

16 F. Unless further reports will be filed in relation to a later election in the same
17 calendar year, the disposition of any surplus or deficit in excess of ~~\$50~~ \$100 shown in
18 the reports described in paragraph E must be reported as provided in this paragraph.
19 The treasurer of a candidate or political committee with a surplus or deficit in excess
20 of ~~\$50~~ \$100 shall file reports semiannually with the commission within 15 days
21 following the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters of the State's fiscal year, complete as of
22 the last day of the quarter, until the surplus is disposed of or the deficit is liquidated.
23 The first report under this paragraph is not required until the 15th day of the period
24 beginning at least 90 days from the date of the election. The reports ~~may either~~ will
25 be considered timely if filed electronically or in person with the commission on that
26 date or postmarked on that date. The reports must set forth any contributions for the
27 purpose of liquidating the deficit, in the same manner as contributions are set forth in
28 other reports required in this section.

29 G. Unless otherwise specified in this subsection, reports must be complete back to
30 the ~~completion end~~ date of the previous report filing period. The reports described in
31 paragraph E, if filed with respect to a primary election, are considered previous
32 reports in relation to reports concerning a general election.

33 H. Reports with respect to a candidate who seeks nomination by petition for the
34 office of Governor must be filed on the same dates that reports must be filed with
35 respect to a candidate who seeks that nomination by primary election.

36 **3-A. Other candidates.** A treasurer of a candidate for state or county office other
37 than the office of Governor shall file reports with the commission and municipal
38 candidates shall file reports with the municipal clerk as follows. Once the first required
39 report has been filed, each subsequent report must cover the period from the ~~completion~~
40 end date of the prior report filed.

41 A. In any calendar year in which an election for the candidate's particular office is
42 not scheduled, when any candidate or candidate's political committee has received
43 contributions in excess of \$500 or made or authorized expenditures in excess of \$500,

1 reports must be filed no later than § 5:00 p.m. on July 15th of that year and January
2 15th of the following calendar year. These reports must include all contributions
3 made to and all expenditures made or authorized by or on behalf of the candidate or
4 the treasurer of the candidate as of the end of the preceding month, except those
5 covered by a previous report.

6 B. Reports must be filed no later than § 5:00 p.m. on the ~~6th~~ 11th day before the date
7 on which an election is held and must be complete as of the ~~12th~~ 14th day before that
8 date. If a report was not filed under paragraph A, the report required under this
9 paragraph must cover all contributions and expenditures through the ~~completion date~~
10 14th day before the election.

11 C. Contributions aggregating ~~\$1,000~~ \$500 or more from any one contributor or
12 single expenditures of ~~\$1,000~~ \$500 or more, made after the ~~12th~~ 14th day before any
13 election and more than 24 hours before § 5:00 p.m. on the day of any election must
14 be reported within 24 hours of those contributions or expenditures.

15 D. Reports must be filed no later than § 5:00 p.m. on the 42nd day after the date on
16 which an election is held and must be complete for the filing period as of the 35th day
17 after that date.

18 E. Unless further reports will be filed in relation to a later election in the same
19 calendar year, the disposition of any surplus or deficit in excess of ~~\$50~~ \$100 shown in
20 the reports described in paragraph D must be reported as provided by this paragraph.
21 The treasurer of a candidate with a surplus or deficit in excess of ~~\$50~~ \$100 shall file
22 reports semiannually with the commission within 15 days following the end of the
23 2nd and 4th quarters of the State's fiscal year, complete as of the last day of the
24 quarter, until the surplus is disposed of or the deficit is liquidated. The first report
25 under this paragraph is not required until the 15th day of the period beginning at least
26 90 days from the date of the election. The reports ~~may either~~ will be considered
27 timely if filed electronically or in person with the commission on that date or
28 postmarked on that date. The reports must set forth any contributions for the purpose
29 of liquidating the deficit, in the same manner as contributions are set forth in other
30 reports required in this section.

31 F. Reports with respect to a candidate who seeks nomination by petition must be
32 filed on the same dates that reports must be filed by a candidate for the same office
33 who seeks that nomination by primary election.

34 **3-B. Accelerated reporting schedule.** Additional reports are required from
35 nonparticipating ~~Maine Clean Election Act~~ candidates, as defined in section 1122,
36 subsection 5, pursuant to this subsection.

37 A. In addition to other reports required by law, any candidate for Governor, State
38 Senate or State House of Representatives who is not certified as a Maine Clean
39 Election Act candidate under chapter 14 and who receives, spends or obligates more
40 than ~~1% in excess of~~ the primary or general election distribution amounts for a Maine
41 Clean Election Act candidate in the same race shall file by any means acceptable to
42 the commission, within 48 hours of that event, a report with the commission detailing
43 the candidate's total campaign contributions, including any campaign balance from a
44 previous election, obligations and expenditures to date.

1 B. A nonparticipating candidate with a Maine Clean Election Act opponent who is
2 required to file a report under paragraph A shall file the following additional reports
3 detailing the candidate's total campaign contributions, obligations and expenditures to
4 date, unless that candidate signs an affidavit by the date the report is due, attesting
5 that the candidate has not received, spent or obligated an amount sufficient to require
6 a report under paragraph A no later than 5:00 p.m.:

7 (1) A report ~~filed not later than 5 p.m.~~ on the 42nd day before the date on which
8 an election is held and that is complete as of the 44th day before that date;

9 (2) ~~A- For gubernatorial candidates only, a report filed no later than 5 p.m. on~~
10 ~~the 21st 25th~~ day before the date on which an election is held and that is complete
11 as of the 23rd 27th day before that date; and

12 (3) A report ~~filed no later than 5 p.m.~~ on the 12th 18th day before the date on
13 which an election is held and that is complete as of the 14th 20th day before that
14 date; and

15 (4) A report on the 6th day before the date on which an election is held that is
16 complete as of the 8th day before that date.

17 The reports must contain the candidate's total campaign contributions, including any
18 campaign balance from a previous election, obligations and expenditures as of the
19 end date of the reporting period.

20 The nonparticipating candidate shall file only those reports that are due after the date
21 on which the candidate filed the report required under paragraph A.

22 ~~C. A candidate who is required to file a report under paragraph A must file with the~~
23 ~~commission an updated report that reports single expenditures in the following~~
24 ~~amounts that are made after the 14th day before an election and more than 24 hours~~
25 ~~before 5:00 p.m. on the date of that election:~~

26 ~~(1) For a candidate for Governor, a single expenditure of \$1,000;~~

27 ~~(2) For a candidate for the state Senate, a single expenditure of \$750; and~~

28 ~~(3) For a candidate for the state House of Representatives, a single expenditure~~
29 ~~of \$500.~~

30 ~~A report filed pursuant to this paragraph must be filed within 24 hours of the~~
31 ~~expenditure.~~

32 ~~The commission shall provide forms to facilitate compliance with this subsection. The~~
33 ~~commission shall notify a candidate within 48 hours if an amount reported on any report~~
34 ~~under paragraph B exceeds 1% in excess of the primary or general election distribution~~
35 ~~amounts for a Maine Clean Election Act candidate in the same race and no report has~~
36 ~~been received under paragraph A.~~

37 **4. New candidate or nominee.** A candidate for nomination or a nominee chosen to
38 fill a vacancy under chapter 5, subchapter ~~III~~ 3 is subject to section 1013-A, subsection 1,
39 except that the candidate shall register the name of a treasurer or political committee and
40 all other information required in section 1013-A, subsection 1, paragraphs A and B within
41 7 days after the candidate's appointment or at least 6 days before the election, whichever

1 is earlier. ~~The person required to file a report under section 1013 A, subsection 1 shall~~
2 ~~file a campaign report under this section 15 days after the candidate's appointment or 6~~
3 ~~days before the election, whichever is earlier. The report must include all contributions~~
4 ~~received and expenditures made through the completion date. The report must be~~
5 ~~complete as of 4 days before the report is due. Subsequent reports must be filed on the~~
6 ~~schedule set forth in this section.~~ The commission shall send notification of this
7 registration requirement and registration and report forms and schedules to the candidate
8 and the candidate's treasurer immediately upon notice of the candidate's and treasurer's
9 appointments.

10 **5. Content.** A report required under this section must contain the itemized accounts
11 of contributions received during that report filing period, including the date a contribution
12 was received, and the name, address, occupation, principal place of business, if any, and
13 the amount of the contribution of each person who has made a contribution or
14 contributions aggregating in excess of \$50. The report must contain the itemized
15 expenditures made or authorized during the report filing period, the date and purpose of
16 each expenditure and the name of each payee and creditor. ~~Total contributions with~~
17 ~~respect to an election of less than \$500 and total expenditures of less than \$500 need not~~
18 ~~be itemized.~~ The report must contain a statement of any loan to a candidate by a financial
19 institution in connection with that candidate's candidacy that is made during the period
20 covered by the report, whether or not the loan is defined as a contribution under section
21 1012, subsection 2, paragraph A. ~~Until December 31, 1992, the candidate is responsible~~
22 ~~for the timely and accurate filing of each required report. Beginning January 1, 1993, the~~
23 The candidate and the treasurer are jointly and severally responsible for the timely and
24 accurate filing of each required report.

25 **5-A. Valuation of contributions sold at auction.** Any contribution received by a
26 candidate that is later sold at auction ~~shall~~ must be reported in the following manner.

27 A. If the contribution is sold at auction before the commencement of the appropriate
28 reporting period specified in subsections ~~1~~ 2 to 4, or during that period, the value of
29 the contribution is deemed to be the amount of the purchase price paid at auction.

30 B. If the contribution is sold after the termination of the appropriate reporting period
31 specified in subsections ~~1~~ 2 to 4, the value of the contribution is the difference
32 between the value of the contribution as originally reported by the treasurer and the
33 amount of the purchase price paid at auction. Unless further reports are filed in
34 relation to a later election in the same calendar year, the disposition of any net surplus
35 or deficit in excess of \$50 resulting from the difference between the auction price and
36 the original contribution value must be reported in the same manner as provided in
37 subsection 2, paragraph F or subsection 3-A, paragraph E, as appropriate.

38 **6. Forms.** Reports required by this section not filed electronically must be on forms
39 prescribed, prepared and sent by the commission to the treasurer of each registered
40 candidate at least 7 days before the filing date for the report. Establishment of or
41 amendments to the campaign report filing forms required by this section must be by rule.
42 Persons filing reports may use additional pages if necessary, but the pages must be the
43 same size as the pages of the form. Although the commission mails the forms for
44 required reports to candidates who are exempt from filing electronically, failure to

1 receive forms by mail does not excuse treasurers, committees and other persons who must
2 file reports from otherwise obtaining the forms or from late filing penalties.

3 Rules of the commission establishing campaign report filing forms for candidates are
4 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5 **7-A. Reporting exemption.** A candidate is exempt from reporting as provided by
6 this subsection.

7 A. A candidate may, at the time the candidate registers under section 1013-A, notify
8 the commission that the candidate and the candidate's agents, if any, will not
9 personally accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations associated
10 with that candidate's candidacy. The notification must be sworn and notarized. A
11 candidate who provides this notice to the commission is not required to appoint a
12 treasurer and is not subject to the filing requirements of this subchapter if the
13 statement is true.

14 B. The notice provided to the commission under paragraph A may be revoked. Prior
15 to revocation, the candidate must appoint a treasurer. The candidate may not accept
16 contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations before the appointment of a
17 treasurer and the filing of a revocation notice are accomplished. A revocation notice
18 must be in the form of an amended registration, which must be filed with the
19 commission no later than 10 days after the appointment of a treasurer. The candidate
20 and the candidate's treasurer, as of the date the revocation notice is filed with the
21 commission, may accept contributions, make expenditures and incur obligations
22 associated with the candidate's candidacy. Any candidate who fails to file a timely
23 revocation notice is subject to the penalties prescribed in section 1020-A, subsection
24 4, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Lateness is calculated from the day a contribution is
25 received, an expenditure is made or an obligation is incurred, whichever is earliest.

26 **8. Disposition of surplus.** A treasurer of a candidate registered under section 1013-
27 A or qualified under sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355 ~~may~~ must dispose of a
28 surplus exceeding ~~\$50~~ \$100 within 4 years of the election for which the contributions
29 were received by:

30 A. Returning contributions to the candidate's or candidate's authorized political
31 committee's contributors, as long as no contributor receives more than the amount
32 contributed;

33 B. A gift to a qualified political party within the State, including any county or
34 municipal subdivision of such a party;

35 C. An unrestricted gift to the State. A candidate for municipal office may dispose of
36 a surplus by making a restricted or unrestricted gift to the municipality;

37 D. Carrying forward the surplus balance to a political committee established to
38 promote the same candidate for a subsequent election;

39 D-1. Carrying forward the surplus balance for use by the candidate for a subsequent
40 election;

41 E. Transferring the surplus balance to one or more other candidates registered under
42 section 1013-A or qualified under sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355, or to

1 political committees established to promote the election of those candidates, provided
2 that the amount transferred does not exceed the contribution limits established by
3 section 1015;

4 F. Repaying any loans or retiring any other debts incurred to defray campaign
5 expenses of the candidate;

6 G. Paying for any expense incurred in the proper performance of the office to which
7 the candidate is elected, as long as each expenditure is itemized on expenditure
8 reports; and

9 H. A gift to a charitable or educational organization that is not prohibited, for tax
10 reasons, from receiving such a gift.

11 The choice must be made by the candidate for whose benefit the contributions were made
12 ~~and distribution of the entire surplus by one or more of the methods prescribed in this~~
13 ~~subsection must be completed within 4 years of the election for which the contributions~~
14 ~~were received.~~

15 **9. Campaign termination report forms.** The commission shall provide each
16 candidate required to report campaign contributions and expenditures with a campaign
17 termination report form. A candidate shall file the campaign termination report with the
18 commission as required in this subsection. The campaign termination report must be
19 complete as of June 30th of the year following the campaign of the previous year. This
20 form must show any deficits or surpluses to be carried over to the next campaign. Funds
21 not carried forward to the next campaign must be disposed of as provided in ~~section 1017,~~
22 subsection 8. Campaign reporting is as follows.

23 A. Candidates with surplus campaign funds following an election shall file
24 termination reports no later than July 15th of the year following the campaign of the
25 previous year.

26 B. Candidates with a campaign deficit following an election shall file termination
27 reports no later than July 15th of the year following the campaign of the previous
28 year.

29 C. Candidates with a deficit who will not participate in the next election for the same
30 office shall file semiannual reports until the deficit is liquidated.

31 D. Candidates who collect funds subsequent to an election for purposes other than
32 retiring campaign debt shall register with the commission pursuant to section 1013-A.

33 **10. Electronic filing.** ~~Beginning January 1, 2006, the~~ The treasurer of a candidate or
34 committee that has receipts or expects to have receipts of more than \$1,500 shall file each
35 report required by this section through an electronic filing system developed by the
36 commission. The commission may make an exception to this electronic filing
37 requirement if a candidate or committee submits a written request that states that the
38 candidate or committee lacks access to the technology or the technological ability to file
39 reports electronically. The request for an exception must be submitted by April 15th of
40 the election year, except that a candidate registered according to subsection 4 has 10
41 business days from the date of registration to submit a request to the commission. The
42 commission shall grant all reasonable requests for exceptions.

1 **Sec. A-19. 21-A MRSA §1017-A**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 301, §§18 to 20, is
2 further amended to read:

3 **§1017-A. Reports of contributions and expenditures by party committees**

4 **1. Contributions.** A party committee shall report all contributions in cash or in kind
5 from ~~an individual~~ a single contributor that in the aggregate in a campaign total more than
6 \$200. The party committee shall report the name, mailing address, occupation and place
7 of business of each contributor. Contributions of \$200 or less must be reported, and these
8 contributions may be reported as a lump sum.

9 **2. Expenditures on behalf of candidates, others.** A party committee shall report
10 all expenditures in cash or in kind of the committee made on behalf of a candidate,
11 political committee, political action committee or party committee registered under this
12 chapter. The party committee shall report:

13 A. The name ~~and address~~ of each candidate ~~and the identity and address of a~~
14 ~~campaign or, political committee, political action committee or party committee;~~

15 B. The office sought by a candidate and the district that the candidate seeks to
16 represent; and

17 C. The date ~~and~~, amount and purpose of each expenditure.

18 **3. Other expenditures.** Operational expenses and other expenditures in cash or in
19 kind of the party committee that are not made on behalf of a candidate, committee or
20 campaign must be reported ~~as a separate item~~ separately. The party committee shall
21 report:

22 A. The name and address of each payee or recipient;

23 B. The ~~reason~~ purpose for the expenditure; and

24 C. The date and amount of each expenditure.

25 **4-A. Filing schedule.** A state party committee shall file its reports according to the
26 following schedule.

27 A. Quarterly reports must be filed by 5:00 p.m.:

28 (1) On January 15th and must be complete up to January 5th;

29 (2) On April 10th and must be complete up to March 31st;

30 (3) On July 15th and must be complete up to July 5th; and

31 (4) On October 10th and must be complete up to September 30th.

32 B. General and primary election reports must be filed by 5:00 p.m.:

33 (1) On the ~~6th~~ 11th day before the date on which the election is held and must
34 be complete up to the ~~12th~~ 14th day before that date; and

35 (2) On the 42nd day after the date on which the election is held and must be
36 complete up to the 35th day after that date.

1 C. Reports of spending to influence special elections, referenda, initiatives, bond
2 issues or constitutional amendments must be filed by 5:00 p.m.:

3 (1) On the ~~6th~~ 11th day before the date on which the election is held and must
4 be complete up to the ~~12th~~ 14th day before that date; and

5 (2) On the 42nd day after the date on which the election is held and must be
6 complete up to the 35th day after that date.

7 D. A state party committee that files an election report under paragraph B or C is not
8 required to file a quarterly report under paragraph A when the deadline for that
9 quarterly report falls within 10 days of the filing deadline established in paragraph B
10 or C.

11 E. A state party committee shall report any expenditure of \$500 or more, made after
12 the ~~12th~~ 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m. on the
13 day of the election, within 24 hours of that expenditure.

14 **4-B. Filing schedule for municipal, district and county party committees.**
15 Municipal, district and county party committees shall file reports according to the
16 following schedule.

17 A. Reports filed during an election year must be filed with the commission by 5:00
18 p.m. on:

19 (1) July 15th and be complete as of June 30th;

20 (2) ~~October 27th~~ The 11th day before the date on which the election is held and
21 must be complete as of October 22nd up to the 14th day before that date; and

22 (3) January 15th and be complete as of December 31st.

23 B. Reports filed during a nonelection year must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on:

24 (1) July 15th and be complete as of June 30th; and

25 (2) January 15th and be complete as of December 31st.

26 C. Any ~~contribution or~~ expenditure of ~~\$1,000~~ \$500 or more made after the ~~12th~~ 14th
27 day before any election and more than 24 hours before ~~that~~ 5:00 p.m. on the day of
28 the election must be reported within 24 hours of that ~~contribution or~~ expenditure.

29 **4-C. Electronic filing.** ~~Beginning January 1, 2006, state~~ State party committees
30 shall file each report required by this section through an electronic filing system
31 developed by the commission. The commission may make an exception to this electronic
32 filing requirement if a party committee submits a written request that states that the party
33 committee lacks access to the technology or the technological ability to file reports
34 electronically. The request for an exception must be submitted by March 1st of the
35 election year. The commission shall grant all reasonable requests for exceptions.

36 **5. Penalties.** A party committee is subject to the penalties in section 1020-A,
37 subsection 4-A.

38 **6. Notice; forms.** A state party committee shall notify all county, district and
39 municipal party committees of the same political party of the party committee reporting

1 requirements. The party committees shall obtain the necessary forms from the
2 commission to complete the filing requirements.

3 **7. Exemption.** Any party committee receiving and expending less than \$1,500 in
4 one calendar year is exempt from the reporting requirements of this section for that year.

5 **8. Municipal elections.** When a party committee makes contributions or
6 expenditures on behalf of a candidate for municipal office subject to this subchapter, it
7 shall file a copy of the reports required by this section with the clerk in that candidate's
8 municipality.

9 **Sec. A-20. 21-A MRSA §1017-B** is enacted to read:

10 **§1017-B. Records**

11 Any party committee that makes expenditures that aggregate in excess of \$50 to any
12 one or more candidates, committees or campaigns in this State shall keep records as
13 provided in this section. Records required to be kept under this section must be retained
14 by the party committee until 10 days after the next election following the election to
15 which the records pertain.

16 **1. Details of records.** The treasurer of a party committee shall record a detailed
17 account of:

18 A. All expenditures made to or on behalf of a candidate, campaign or committee;

19 B. The identity and address of each candidate, campaign or committee;

20 C. The office sought by a candidate and the district the candidate seeks to represent,
21 for candidates that a party committee has made an expenditure to or on behalf of; and

22 D. The date of each expenditure.

23 **2. Receipts.** The treasurer of a party committee shall retain a vendor invoice or
24 receipt stating the particular goods or services purchased for every expenditure in excess
25 of \$50.

26 **3. Record of contributions.** The treasurer of a party committee shall keep a record
27 of all contributions to the committee, by name and mailing address, of each donor and the
28 amount and date of the contribution. This subsection does not apply to aggregate
29 contributions from a single donor of \$50 or less in an election. When any donor's
30 contributions to a party committee exceed \$50, the record must include the aggregate
31 amount of all contributions from that donor.

32 **Sec. A-21. 21-A MRSA §1018, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is
33 repealed.

34 **Sec. A-22. 21-A MRSA §1019-B, sub-§1, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 448,
35 §3, is amended to read:

36 B. Is presumed in races involving a candidate who is certified as a Maine Clean
37 Election Act candidate under section 1125, subsection 5 to be any expenditure made

1 to design, produce or disseminate a communication that names or depicts a clearly
2 identified candidate and is disseminated during the 21 days, including election day,
3 before a primary election; the ~~21~~ 60 days, including election day, before a general
4 election; or during a special election until and on election day.

5 **Sec. A-23. 21-A MRSA §1019-B, sub-§3, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 448,
6 §3, is amended to read:

7 B. A report required by this subsection must contain an itemized account of each
8 ~~contribution or expenditure~~ aggregating in excess of \$100 in any one candidate's
9 election, the date and purpose of each ~~contribution or expenditure~~, a description of all
10 communications related to the expenditure and the name of each payee or creditor.
11 The report must state whether the ~~contribution or expenditure~~ is in support of or in
12 opposition to the candidate and must include, under penalty of perjury, as provided in
13 Title 17-A, section 451, a statement under oath or affirmation whether the
14 ~~contribution or expenditure~~ is made in cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at
15 the request or suggestion of, the candidate or an authorized committee or agent of the
16 candidate.

17 **Sec. A-24. 21-A MRSA §1020-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 483, §15, is
18 amended to read:

19 **1. Registration.** A candidate that fails to register the name of a candidate, treasurer
20 or political committee with the commission within the time allowed by section 1013-A,
21 subsection 1 may be assessed a ~~forfeiture~~ fine of ~~\$40~~ \$100. The commission shall
22 determine whether a registration satisfies the requirements for timely filing under section
23 1013-A, subsection 1.

24 **Sec. A-25. 21-A MRSA §1020-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 628, Pt.
25 A, §3, is further amended to read:

26 **2. Campaign finance reports.** A campaign finance report is not timely filed unless
27 a properly signed or electronically submitted copy of the report, substantially conforming
28 to the disclosure requirements of this subchapter, is received by the commission ~~before 5~~
29 by 5:00 p.m. on the date it is due. Except as provided in subsection 7, the commission
30 shall determine whether a report satisfies the requirements for timely filing. The
31 commission may waive a penalty if the commission determines that the penalty is
32 disproportionate to the size of the candidate's campaign, the level of experience of the
33 candidate, treasurer or campaign staff or the harm suffered by the public from the late
34 disclosure. The commission may waive the penalty in whole or in part if the commission
35 determines the failure to file a timely report was due to mitigating circumstances. For
36 purposes of this section, "mitigating circumstances" means:

37 A. A valid emergency determined by the commission, in the interest of the sound
38 administration of justice, to warrant the waiver of the penalty in whole or in part;

39 B. An error by the commission staff;

40 C. Failure to receive notice of the filing deadline; or

1 D. Other circumstances determined by the commission that warrant mitigation of the
2 penalty, based upon relevant evidence presented that a bona fide effort was made to
3 file the report in accordance with the statutory requirements, including, but not
4 limited to, unexplained delays in postal service.

5 **Sec. A-26. 21-A MRSA §1020-A, sub-§4-A**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 714, Pt.
6 PP, §1 and affected by §2, is amended to read:

7 **4-A. Basis for penalties.** The penalty for late filing of a report required under this
8 subchapter, except for accelerated campaign finance reports required pursuant to section
9 1017, subsection 3-B, is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the
10 filing period, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days late, as
11 follows:

12 A. For the first violation, 1%;

13 B. For the 2nd violation, 3%; and

14 C. For the 3rd and subsequent violations, 5%.

15 Any penalty of less than ~~5~~ 10 is waived.

16 Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a 2-year period that begins on
17 January 1st of each even-numbered year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify the finding
18 of a violation.

19 A report required to be filed under this subchapter that is sent by certified or registered
20 United States mail and postmarked at least 2 days before the deadline is not subject to
21 penalty.

22 A registration or report may be provisionally filed by transmission of a facsimile copy of
23 the duly executed report to the commission, as long as the facsimile copy is filed by the
24 applicable deadline and an original of the same report is received by the commission
25 within 5 calendar days thereafter.

26 The penalty for late filing of an accelerated campaign finance report as required in section
27 1017, subsection 3-B may be up to but no more than 3 times the amount by which the
28 contributions received or expenditures obligated or made by the candidate exceed the
29 applicable Maine Clean Election Fund disbursement amount, per day of violation. The
30 commission shall make a finding of fact establishing when the report was due prior to
31 imposing a penalty under this subsection. A penalty for failure to file an accelerated
32 campaign finance report must be made payable to the Maine Clean Election Fund. In
33 assessing a penalty for failure to file an accelerated campaign finance report, the
34 commission shall consider the existence of mitigating circumstances. For the purposes of
35 this subsection, "mitigating circumstances" has the same meaning as in subsection 2.

36 **Sec. A-27. 21-A MRSA §1020-A, sub-§6**, as corrected by RR 1995, c. 2, §38, is
37 amended to read:

38 **6. Request for a commission determination.** Within 3 days following the filing
39 deadline, a notice must be ~~forwarded~~ sent to a candidate and treasurer whose registration
40 or campaign finance report is not received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date, informing
41 them of the basis for calculating penalties under subsection 4 and providing them with an

1 opportunity to request a commission determination. The notice must be sent by certified
2 United States mail. Any request for a determination must be made within 10 calendar
3 days of receipt of the commission's notice. The 10-day period during which a
4 determination may be requested begins on the day a recipient signs for the certified mail
5 notice of the proposed penalty. If the certified letter is refused or left unclaimed at the
6 post office, the 10-day period begins on the day the post office indicates it has given first
7 notice of a certified letter. A candidate or treasurer requesting a determination may either
8 appear in person or designate a representative to appear on the candidate's or treasurer's
9 behalf or submit a notarized written explanation of the mitigating circumstances for
10 consideration by the commission.

11 **Sec. A-28. 21-A MRSA §1020-A, sub-§7**, as corrected by RR 2003, c. 1, §14, is
12 amended to read:

13 **7. Final notice of penalty.** ~~After a~~ If a determination has been requested by the
14 candidate and made by the commission ~~meeting~~, notice of the commission's final
15 determination and the penalty, if any, imposed pursuant to this subchapter must be sent to
16 the candidate and the treasurer.

17 If no determination is requested, the commission staff shall calculate the penalty as
18 prescribed in subsection 4-A and shall mail final notice of the penalty to the candidate
19 and treasurer. A detailed summary of all notices must be provided to the commission.

20 **Sec. A-29. 21-A MRSA §1020-A, sub-§8**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003,
21 c. 628, Pt. A, §5, is amended to read:

22 **8. Failure to file report.** The commission shall notify a candidate who has failed to
23 file a report required by this subchapter, in writing, informing the candidate of the
24 requirement to file a report. The notice must be sent by certified mail. If a candidate fails
25 to file a report after ~~3 written communications from~~ 2 notices have been sent by the
26 commission, the commission shall send ~~up to 2 more written communications a final~~
27 notice by certified mail informing the candidate of the requirement to file and that the
28 matter may be referred to the Attorney General for criminal prosecution. A candidate
29 who fails to file a report as required by this subchapter after the commission has sent the
30 ~~communications~~ notices required by this subsection is guilty of a Class E crime.

31 **Sec. A-30. 21-A MRSA §1051, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 483, §16, is
32 further amended to read:

33 This subchapter applies to the activities of political action committees organized in
34 and outside this State that accept contributions, incur obligations or make expenditures in
35 an aggregate amount in excess of ~~\$\$0~~ \$1,500 in any one calendar year for the election of
36 state, county or municipal officers, or for the support or defeat of any campaign, as
37 defined in this subchapter.

38 **Sec. A-31. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is
39 amended to read:

1 **2. Committee.** "Committee" means any political action committee, as defined in
2 this subchapter, and includes any agent of a political action committee.

3 **Sec. A-32. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§4, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 301,
4 §22, is further amended to read:

5 B. Does not include:

6 (1) Any news story, commentary or editorial distributed through the facilities of
7 any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine or other periodical publication,
8 unless these facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political
9 committee ~~or~~, candidate or candidate's immediate family;

10 (2) Activity designed to encourage individuals to register to vote or to vote, if
11 that activity or communication does not mention a clearly identified candidate;

12 (3) Any communication by any membership organization or corporation to its
13 members or stockholders, if that membership organization or corporation is not
14 organized primarily for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of
15 any person to state or county office;

16 (4) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and
17 beverages, voluntarily provided by a political action committee in rendering
18 voluntary personal services for candidate-related activities, if the cumulative
19 value of these activities by the political action committee on behalf of any
20 candidate does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;

21 (5) Any unreimbursed travel expenses incurred and paid for by a political action
22 committee that volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative
23 amount of these expenses does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election; and

24 (6) Any communication by any political action committee member that is not
25 made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election, or election, of
26 any person to state or county office.

27 **Sec. A-33. 21-A MRSA §1053,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 575, §6, is further
28 amended to read:

29 **§1053. Registration**

30 Every political action committee that accepts contributions, incurs obligations or
31 makes expenditures in the aggregate in excess of \$1,500 in any single calendar year to
32 initiate, support, defeat or influence in any way a campaign, referendum, initiated
33 petition, including the collection of signatures for a direct initiative, candidate, political
34 committee or another political action committee must register with the commission,
35 within 7 days of accepting those contributions, incurring those obligations or making
36 those expenditures, on forms prescribed by the commission. These forms must include
37 the following information and any additional information reasonably required by the
38 commission to monitor the activities of political action committees in this State under this
39 subchapter:

1 **1. Identification of committee.** The names and mailing addresses of the committee,
2 its treasurer, its principal officers ~~and, the identity names~~ of any candidates, and
3 Legislators or other who have a significant role in fund-raising or decision-making for the
4 committee and all individuals who are the primary fund-raisers and decision makers for
5 the committee;

6 ~~**2. Status.** A statement whether the political action committee is a continuing one;~~

7 ~~**3. Depository of funds.** The names and addresses of the depositories in which funds~~
8 ~~of the committee are kept and the account numbers of each depository account;~~

9 **4. Form of organization.** The form or structure of organization, including
10 cooperatives, corporations, voluntary associations, partnerships or any other structure by
11 which the committee functions. The date of origin or incorporation must also be
12 specified; and

13 ~~**5. Assets.** The total assets of the committee available to influence elections in this~~
14 ~~State at the time of registration to be itemized and to include deposits in financial~~
15 ~~institutions, real property, personal property, investments, cash and any other form of~~
16 ~~wealth available to the committee;~~

17 **6. Statement of support or opposition.** A statement indicating the positions of the
18 committee, support or opposition, with respect to a candidate, political committee,
19 referendum, initiated petition or campaign, if known at the time of registration. If a
20 committee has no position on a candidate, campaign or issue at the time of registration,
21 the committee must inform the commission as soon as the committee knows this
22 information; and.

23 ~~**7. Contributions to committee.** The names and mailing addresses of contributors~~
24 ~~who donate in excess of \$50 each year to the committee with amount or value of each~~
25 ~~contribution at the time of registration. Any person who makes contributions on an~~
26 ~~installment basis, the total of which exceeds \$50 in the calendar year, is considered a~~
27 ~~contributor to be identified under this subsection.~~

28 Every change in information required by this section must be included in an amended
29 registration form submitted to the commission within 10 days of the date of the change.
30 The committee must file an updated registration form every 2 years between January 1st
31 and March 1st of an election year. The commission may waive the updated registration
32 requirement for newly registered political action committees or other registered political
33 action committees if it determines that the requirement would cause an administrative
34 burden disproportionate to the public benefit of updated information.

35 At the time of registration, the political action committee shall file an initial
36 campaign finance report disclosing all information required by section 1060.

37 **Sec. A-34. 21-A MRSA §1054**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to
38 read:

1 **§1054. Appointment of treasurer**

2 Any political action committee required to register under section 1053 must appoint a
3 treasurer before ~~making any expenditure, as defined in this chapter~~ registering with the
4 commission. The treasurer shall retain, for a minimum of 4 years, all receipts, including
5 cancelled checks, of expenditures made in support of or in opposition to a campaign,
6 political committee, political action committee, referendum or initiated petition in this
7 State.

8 **Sec. A-35. 21-A MRSA §1055**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 308, §2, is further
9 amended to read:

10 **§1055. Publication or distribution of political communications**

11 ~~When a~~ A political action committee that makes an expenditure to finance a
12 communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate ~~through~~
13 ~~broadcasting stations, newspapers, magazines, outdoor advertising facilities, direct mails~~
14 ~~and other similar types of general public political advertising and through flyers,~~
15 ~~handbills, bumper stickers and other nonperiodical publications, the communication must~~
16 ~~clearly and conspicuously state the name and address of the political action committee~~
17 ~~that authorized, made or financed the expenditure for the communication and that the~~
18 ~~communication has been authorized by the political action committee or that names or~~
19 ~~depicts a clearly identified candidate is subject to the requirements of section 1014.~~

20 ~~A person operating a broadcasting station within this State may not broadcast any~~
21 ~~such communication without an oral or visual announcement of the name and address of~~
22 ~~the political action committee that made or financed the expenditure for the~~
23 ~~communication.~~

24 ~~A newspaper may not publish a communication described in this section without~~
25 ~~including the disclosure required by this section. For purposes of this paragraph,~~
26 ~~"newspaper" includes any printed material intended for general circulation or to be read~~
27 ~~by the general public. When necessary, a newspaper may seek the advice of the~~
28 ~~commission regarding whether or not the communication requires the disclosure.~~

29 ~~An expenditure, communication or broadcast that results in a violation of this section~~
30 ~~may result in a civil penalty of no more than \$200. Enforcement and collection~~
31 ~~procedures must be in accordance with section 1062-A.~~

32 **Sec. A-36. 21-A MRSA §1057, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is
33 amended to read:

34 **2. Receipts.** The treasurer of a political action committee must retain ~~all receipts of~~
35 ~~expenditures made for a candidate, committee or campaign in this State~~ a vendor invoice
36 or receipt stating the particular goods or services purchased for every expenditure in
37 excess of \$50. Receipts may be in the form of cancelled checks.

38 **Sec. A-37. 21-A MRSA §1057, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 504, §§27
39 and 31, is further amended to read:

1 **3. Record of contributions.** The treasurer of a political action committee must keep
2 a record of all contributions to the committee, by name and mailing address, of each
3 donor and the amount and date of the contribution. This provision does not apply to
4 ~~aggregate contributions which do not exceed from a single donor of \$50 each or less for a~~
5 ~~general election, primary an election and or referendum campaign.~~ When any donor's
6 contributions to a political action committee exceed \$50, the record must include the
7 aggregate amount of all contributions from that donor.

8 **Sec. A-38. 21-A MRSA §1058**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 575, §7, is further
9 amended to read:

10 **§1058. Reports; qualifications for filing**

11 A political action committee that is registered with the commission or that accepts
12 contributions or makes expenditures and incurs obligations in an aggregate amount in
13 excess of ~~\$50~~ \$1,500 on any one or more campaigns for the office of Governor, for state
14 or county office or for the support or defeat of a referendum or initiated petition shall file
15 a report on its activities in that campaign with the commission on forms as prescribed by
16 the commission. A political action committee organized in this State required under this
17 section to file a report shall file the report for each filing period under section 1059. A
18 political action committee organized outside this State shall file with the Commission on
19 Governmental Ethics and Election Practices of this State a copy of the report that the
20 political action committee is required to file in the state in which the political action
21 committee is organized. The political action committee shall file the copy only if it has
22 expended funds or received contributions or made expenditures in this State. The copy of
23 the report must be filed in accordance with the schedule of filing in the state where it is
24 organized. If contributions or expenditures are made relating to a municipal office or
25 referendum, the report must be filed with the clerk in the subject municipality.

26 **Sec. A-39. 21-A MRSA §1059**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 301, §§25 and 26, is
27 further amended to read:

28 **§1059. Report; filing requirements**

29 Committees required to register under section 1053 shall file reports in compliance
30 with this section. All reports must be filed ~~no later than 5~~ by 5:00 p.m. on the filing
31 deadline.

32 ~~**1. Contents; quarterly reports and election year reports.** The reports required~~
33 ~~under subsection 2, paragraphs A, B and C, must contain the following:~~

34 ~~**A.**—Itemized expenditures required by the commission to closely monitor the~~
35 ~~activities of political action committees;~~

36 ~~**B.**—Aggregate expenditures, listed by candidate or political committee, for the~~
37 ~~reporting period for which the report is filed;~~

38 ~~**B-1.**—Cumulative expenditures, listed by candidate or political committee,~~
39 ~~aggregating the expenditures made during preceding reporting periods in the same~~
40 ~~calendar year and during the reporting period for which the report is filed;~~

1 ~~C. The total cumulative balance from all preceding reporting periods; and~~
2 ~~D. In the report required to be filed under subsection 2, paragraph B, subparagraph~~
3 ~~2, a summary of all expenditures made during the calendar year in which the election~~
4 ~~was held.~~
5 ~~The commission may accept computer printout sheets that contain the information~~
6 ~~required by this chapter.~~

7 **2. Reporting schedule.** Committees shall file reports according to the following
8 schedule.

9 A. Quarterly reports ~~shall~~ must be filed:
10 (1) On January 15th and must be complete as of January 5th;
11 (2) On April 10th and must be complete as of March 31st;
12 (3) On July 15th and must be complete as of July 5th; and
13 (4) On October 10th and must be complete as of September 30th.

14 B. General and primary election reports ~~shall~~ must be filed:
15 (1) On the ~~6th~~ 11th day before the date on which the election is held and must
16 be complete as of the ~~12th~~ 14th day before that date; and
17 (2) On the 42nd day after the date on which the election is held and must be
18 complete as of the 35th day after that date.

19 C. Reports of spending to influence special elections, referenda, initiatives, bond
20 issues or constitutional amendments ~~shall~~ must be filed:
21 (1) On the ~~6th~~ 11th day before the date on which the election is held and must
22 be complete as of the ~~12th~~ 14th day before that date; and
23 (2) On the 42nd day after the date on which the election is held and must be
24 complete as of the 35th day after that date.

25 D. A committee that files an election report under paragraph B or C is not required to
26 file a quarterly report when the deadline for that quarterly report falls within 10 days
27 of the filing deadline established in paragraph B or C.

28 E. A committee shall report any expenditure of \$500 or more, made after the ~~12th~~
29 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before ~~5~~ 5:00 p.m. on the day of
30 the election, within 24 hours of that expenditure.

31 **5. Electronic filing.** ~~Beginning January 1, 2006, committees~~ Committees shall file
32 each report required by this section through an electronic filing system developed by the
33 commission. The commission may make an exception to this electronic filing
34 requirement if a committee submits a written request that states that the committee lacks
35 access to the technology or the technological ability to file reports electronically. The
36 request for an exception must be submitted ~~no later than March 1, 2006 or~~ within 30 days
37 of the registration of the committee, ~~whichever is later~~. The commission shall grant all
38 reasonable requests for exceptions.

1 **Sec. A-40. 21-A MRSA §1060**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 575, §8, is further
2 amended to read:

3 **§1060. Content of reports**

4 The reports must contain the following information and any additional information
5 required by the commission to monitor the activities of political action committees:

6 **1. Identification of candidates.** The names of and ~~mailing addresses of any~~
7 ~~candidate offices sought by all candidates~~ whom the committee supports, intends to
8 support or seeks to defeat. ~~The report must indicate the office that the candidate is~~
9 ~~seeking, the political party represented by the candidate, if any, the date of the contest and~~
10 ~~whether the contest is an election or a primary;~~

11 **2. Identification of committees; parties.** The names and ~~mailing addresses of any~~
12 ~~all political committee committees~~ or political party committees supported in any way by
13 the registrant committee;

14 **3. Identification of referendum or initiated petition.** The ~~referendum referenda or~~
15 ~~initiated petition which petitions that~~ the committee supports or opposes ~~and the names~~
16 ~~and mailing addresses of the organizations to which expenditures were made;~~

17 **4. Itemized expenditures.** An itemization of each expenditure made ~~to support or~~
18 ~~oppose on behalf of~~ any candidate, campaign, political committee, political action
19 committee, ~~political and party,~~ committee or to support or oppose a referendum or
20 initiated petition, including the date, payee and purpose of the expenditure ~~and the~~
21 ~~address of the payee; the name of each candidate, campaign, political committee, political~~
22 ~~action committee or party committee on whose behalf the expenditure was made; and~~
23 ~~each referendum or initiated petition supported or opposed by the expenditure.~~ If
24 expenditures were made to a person described in section 1012, subsection 3, paragraph A,
25 subparagraph (4), the report must contain the name of the person; the amount spent by
26 that person on behalf of the candidate, campaign, political committee, political action
27 committee, ~~political party~~ committee, referendum or initiated petition, including, but not
28 limited to, expenditures made during the signature gathering phase; the reason for the
29 expenditure; and the date of the expenditure. The commission may specify the categories
30 of expenditures that are to be reported to enable the commission to closely monitor the
31 activities of political action committees;

32 **5. Aggregate expenditures.** An aggregation of expenditures and cumulative
33 aggregation of expenditures to a candidate, campaign, political committee, political
34 action committee, party committee, referendum or initiated petition;

35 **6. Identification of contributions.** Names, occupations, places of business and
36 mailing addresses of contributors who have given more than \$50 to the political action
37 ~~committee after the committee has registered under section 1053, in the reporting period~~
38 and the amount contributed by each donor and the date of the each contribution. ~~The~~
39 ~~information already reported as required by section 1053, subsection 7 should not be~~
40 ~~deduplicated;~~ and

1 **7. Other expenditures.** Operational expenses and other expenditures in cash or in
2 kind that are not made on behalf of a candidate, committee or campaign.

3 **Sec. A-41. 21-A MRSA §1061**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 695, §36, is further
4 amended to read:

5 **§1061. Dissolution of committees**

6 Whenever any political action committee ~~disbands or~~ determines that it will no longer
7 solicit or accept any contributions, incur any obligations will no longer be incurred and
8 no, make any expenditures will be made to or on behalf of any candidate, political
9 committee ~~or political party, or~~ committee or political action committee to initiate,
10 support, defeat or influence in any way the outcome of a referendum, initiated petition, or
11 election ~~or primary~~, and the committee has no outstanding loans, debts or other
12 obligations, the committee shall file a termination report that includes all financial
13 activity from the end date of the previous reporting period through the date of termination
14 with the ~~Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices~~ commission. If a
15 termination report is not filed, the committee shall continue to file periodic reports as
16 required in this chapter.

17 **Sec. A-42. 21-A MRSA §1062-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 628, Pt.
18 A, §7, is further amended to read:

19 **2. Campaign finance reports.** A campaign finance report is not timely filed unless
20 a properly signed or electronically submitted copy of the report, substantially conforming
21 to the disclosure requirements of this subchapter, is received by the commission ~~before 5~~
22 by 5:00 p.m. on the date it is due. Except as provided in subsection 6, the commission
23 shall determine whether a required report satisfies the requirements for timely filing. The
24 commission may waive a penalty if it is disproportionate to the level of experience of the
25 person filing the report or to the harm suffered by the public from the late disclosure. The
26 commission may waive the penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines the
27 failure to file a timely report was due to mitigating circumstances. For purposes of this
28 section, "mitigating circumstances" means:

29 A. A valid emergency of the committee treasurer determined by the commission, in
30 the interest of the sound administration of justice, to warrant the waiver of the penalty
31 in whole or in part;

32 B. An error by the commission staff; or

33 C. Other circumstances determined by the commission that warrant mitigation of the
34 penalty, based upon relevant evidence presented that a bona fide effort was made to
35 file the report in accordance with the statutory requirements, including, but not
36 limited to, unexplained delays in postal service or interruptions in Internet service.

37 **Sec. A-43. 21-A MRSA §1062-A, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 483, §21, is
38 amended to read:

1 **3. Basis for penalties.** The penalty for late filing of a report required under this
2 subchapter is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the filing period,
3 whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days late, as follows:

- 4 A. For the first violation, 1%;
 - 5 B. For the 2nd violation, 3%; and
 - 6 C. For the 3rd and subsequent violations, 5%.
- 7 Any penalty of less than \$5 \$10 is waived.

8 Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a 2-year period that begins on
9 January 1st of each even-numbered calendar year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify
10 the finding of a violation.

11 A report required to be filed under this subchapter that is sent by certified or registered
12 United States mail and postmarked at least 2 days before the deadline is not subject to
13 penalty.

14 A required report may be provisionally filed by transmission of a facsimile copy of the
15 duly executed report to the commission, as long as an original of the same report is
16 received by the commission within 5 calendar days thereafter.

17 **Sec. A-44. 21-A MRSA §1062-A, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 483, §21, is
18 amended to read:

19 **5. Request for a commission determination.** Within 3 days following the filing
20 deadline, a notice must be forwarded to the principal officer and treasurer of the political
21 action committee whose report is not received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date,
22 informing them of the basis for calculating penalties under subsection 3 and providing
23 them with an opportunity to request a commission determination. The notice must be
24 sent by certified United States mail. A request for determination must be made within 10
25 calendar days of receipt of the commission's notice. The 10-day period during which a
26 determination may be requested begins on the day a recipient signs for the certified mail
27 notice of the proposed penalty. If the certified letter is refused or left unclaimed at the
28 post office, the 10-day period begins on the day the post office indicates it has given first
29 notice of a certified letter. A principal officer or treasurer requesting a determination may
30 either appear in person or designate a representative to appear on the principal officer's or
31 treasurer's behalf or submit a notarized written explanation of the mitigating
32 circumstances for consideration by the commission.

33 **Sec. A-45. 21-A MRSA §1062-A, sub-§7**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 483, §21, is
34 amended to read:

35 **7. List of late-filing committees.** The commission shall prepare a list of the names
36 of political action committees that are late in filing a report required under section 1059,
37 subsection 2, paragraph B, subparagraph (1), or section 1059, subsection 2, paragraph C
38 or D ~~or section 1059, subsection 3 A, paragraph B or C~~ within 30 days of the date of the
39 election and shall make that list available for public inspection.

1 **PART B**

2 **Sec. B-1. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

3 **4-A. Immediate family.** "Immediate family" has the same meaning as in section 1,
4 subsection 20 and includes a candidate's domestic partner and the immediate family of
5 the candidate's domestic partner.

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

8 **7. Qualifying contribution.** "Qualifying contribution" means a donation:

9 A. Of \$5 in the form of a check or a money order payable to the fund, signed by the
10 contributor and made in support of a candidate;

11 B. Made by a registered voter within the electoral division for the office a candidate
12 is seeking and whose voter registration has been verified by the municipal registrar;

13 C. Made during the designated qualifying period ~~and obtained with the knowledge~~
14 ~~and approval of the candidate;~~ and

15 D. ~~That is acknowledged by a written receipt that identifies the name and address of~~
16 ~~the donor~~ the contributor acknowledges was made with the contributor's personal
17 funds and in support of the candidate and was not given in exchange for anything of
18 value and that the candidate acknowledges was obtained with the candidate's
19 knowledge and approval and that nothing of value was given in exchange for the
20 contribution, on forms provided by the commission.

21 **Sec. B-3. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§9,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 301, §28, is
22 further amended to read:

23 **9. Seed money contribution.** "Seed money contribution" means a contribution of
24 no more than \$100 ~~per individual~~ made to a participating candidate by an individual who
25 is a Maine resident, including ~~a contribution from the candidate or the candidate's family~~
26 ~~spouse or domestic partner.~~ To be eligible for certification, a candidate may collect and
27 spend only seed money contributions subsequent to becoming a candidate as defined by
28 section 1, subsection 5 and throughout the qualifying period. ~~A participating candidate~~
29 ~~who has accepted contributions or made expenditures that do not comply with the seed~~
30 ~~money restrictions under this chapter may petition the commission to remain eligible for~~
31 ~~certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate in accordance with rules of the~~
32 ~~commission, if the failure to comply was unintentional and does not constitute a~~
33 ~~significant infraction of these restrictions.~~ Prior to certification, a candidate may obligate
34 an amount greater than the seed money collected if the value of the goods and services
35 received from a vendor does not exceed the amount paid to the vendor. A candidate may
36 not collect or spend seed money contributions after certification as a Maine Clean
37 Election Act candidate. A seed money contribution must be reported according to
38 procedures developed by the commission.

39 **Sec. B-4. 21-A MRSA §1124, sub-§2, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt.
40 EE, §1, is further amended to read:

1 B. Two million dollars of the revenues from the taxes imposed under Title 36, Parts
2 3 and 8 and credited to the General Fund, transferred to the fund by the State
3 Controller on or before January 1st of ~~each year, beginning January 1, 1999~~ 2008 and
4 2009, then on or before September 1st of each year thereafter. These revenues must
5 be offset in an equitable manner by an equivalent reduction within the administrative
6 divisions of the legislative branch and executive branch agencies. This section may
7 not affect the funds distributed to the Local Government Fund under Title 30-A,
8 section 5681.

9 ~~If the commission determines that the fund will not have sufficient revenues to cover~~
10 ~~the likely demand for funds from the Maine Clean Election Fund in an upcoming~~
11 ~~calendar year, by January 1st the commission shall provide a report of its projections~~
12 ~~of the balances in the Maine Clean Election Fund to the Legislature and the Governor~~
13 ~~and may request that the State Controller make the following transfers to the Maine~~
14 ~~Clean Election Fund from the General Fund:~~

15 ~~(1) Up to \$2,000,000 no later than February 28, 2006, reflecting an advance of~~
16 ~~the transfer of the amounts that would be received on or before January 1, 2007~~
17 ~~pursuant to this paragraph;~~

18 ~~(2) Up to \$2,000,000 no later than July 31, 2006, reflecting an advance of the~~
19 ~~transfer of the amounts that would be received on or before January 1, 2008~~
20 ~~pursuant to this paragraph; and~~

21 ~~(3) Up to \$1,500,000 no later than September 1, 2004, reflecting a partial~~
22 ~~advance of the transfer of the amounts that would be received on or before~~
23 ~~January 1, 2005 pursuant to this paragraph;~~

24 **Sec. B-5. 21-A MRSA §1124, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. OO,
25 §1, is further amended to read:

26 **3. Determination of fund amount.** ~~By September 1st preceding each election year,~~
27 ~~If the commission shall publish an estimate of revenue in the fund available for~~
28 ~~distribution to certified candidates during the upcoming year's elections and an estimate~~
29 ~~of the likely demand for clean elections funding during that election determines that the~~
30 ~~fund will not have sufficient revenues to cover the likely demand for funds from the~~
31 ~~Maine Clean Election Fund in an upcoming election, by January 1st the commission shall~~
32 ~~provide a report of its projections of the balances in the Maine Clean Election Fund to the~~
33 ~~Legislature and the Governor. The commission may submit legislation to request~~
34 ~~additional funding or an advance on revenues to be transferred pursuant to subsection 2,~~
35 ~~paragraph B.~~

36 **Sec. B-6. 21-A MRSA §1125**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 542, §§3 to 5, is further
37 amended to read:

38 **§1125. Terms of participation**

39 **1. Declaration of intent.** A participating candidate must file a declaration of intent
40 to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and to comply with the
41 requirements of this chapter. The declaration of intent must be filed with the commission
42 prior to or during the qualifying period, except as provided in subsection 11, according to

1 forms and procedures developed by the commission. A participating candidate must
2 submit a declaration of intent within 5 business days of collecting qualifying
3 contributions under this chapter, ~~or the qualifying.~~ Qualifying contributions collected
4 before the declaration of intent has been filed will not be counted toward the eligibility
5 requirement in subsection 3.

6 **2. Contribution limits for participating candidates.** Subsequent to becoming a
7 candidate as defined by section 1, subsection 5 and prior to certification, a participating
8 candidate may not accept contributions, except for seed money contributions. A
9 participating candidate must limit the candidate's total seed money contributions to the
10 following amounts:

- 11 A. Fifty thousand dollars for a gubernatorial candidate;
- 12 B. One thousand five hundred dollars for a candidate for the State Senate; or
- 13 C. Five hundred dollars for a candidate for the State House of Representatives.

14 The commission may, by rule, revise these amounts to ensure the effective
15 implementation of this chapter.

16 **2-A. Seed money report.** Seed money contributions and expenditures must be
17 reported according to procedures developed by the commission. A participating
18 candidate shall report the name, residential address and the occupation and employer of
19 every individual contributor regardless of the amount of the contribution.

20 **2-B. Documentation of seed money contributions required for gubernatorial**
21 **candidates.** For each seed money contribution regardless of amount, a candidate for
22 Governor shall obtain a contribution card on a form prescribed by the commission that is
23 signed by the contributor and that contains the contributor's residential address, mailing
24 address, employer, occupation and telephone number, an acknowledgment that the seed
25 money contribution was made with the contributor's personal funds and was not
26 reimbursed by any source and any other information determined necessary by the
27 commission. Candidates for Governor also shall keep a photocopy of each seed money
28 contribution received by check or money order and all bank and merchant account
29 statements of contributions received by debit or credit card.

30 **2-C. Seed money restrictions.** To be eligible for certification, a participating
31 candidate may collect and spend only seed money contributions subsequent to becoming
32 a candidate, as defined by section 1, subsection 5, and prior to certification. Unless
33 excluded from the definition of contribution in section 1012, subsection 2 paragraph B,
34 all goods and services received prior to certification must be paid for with seed money
35 contributions. Prior to certification, a participating candidate may obligate an amount
36 greater than the seed money collected for goods and services but may only receive that
37 portion of goods and services that has been paid for or will be paid for with seed money.
38 A participating candidate may not solicit, accept or collect seed money contributions after
39 certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate. It is a violation of this chapter for
40 a participating candidate to use fund revenues received after certification to pay for goods
41 and services received prior to certification. A participating candidate who has accepted
42 contributions or made expenditures that do not comply with the seed money restrictions

1 under this chapter may petition the commission to remain eligible for certification as a
2 Maine Clean Election Act candidate in accordance with rules of the commission, if the
3 failure to comply was unintentional and does not constitute a significant infraction of
4 these restrictions.

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

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

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

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

15 A payment, gift or anything of value may not be given in exchange for a qualifying
16 contribution. A candidate may pay the fee for a money order that is a qualifying
17 contribution in the amount of \$5, ~~which is a qualifying contribution~~, as long as the donor
18 making the qualifying contribution pays the \$5 amount reflected on the money order.
19 Any money order fees paid by a participating candidate must be paid for with seed money
20 and reported in accordance with commission rules. A money order must be signed by the
21 contributor to be a valid qualifying contribution. The commission may establish by
22 routine technical rule, adopted in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, a
23 procedure for a qualifying contribution to be made by a credit or debit transaction and by
24 electronic funds transfer over the Internet.

25 It is a violation of this chapter for a participating candidate or an agent of the participating
26 candidate to misrepresent the purpose of soliciting qualifying contributions and obtaining
27 the contributor's signed acknowledgement.

28 **4. Filing with commission.** A participating candidate must submit qualifying
29 contributions, receipt and acknowledgement forms, proof of verification of voter
30 registration and a seed money report to the commission during the qualifying period
31 according to procedures developed by the commission, except as provided under
32 subsection 11. Candidates for Governor shall also submit photocopies of all seed money
33 contributions received by check or money order, bank or merchant account statements of
34 contributions received by credit or debit card, contribution cards required by subsection
35 2-B and bank or other account statements for the campaign account.

36 **5. Certification of Maine Clean Election Act candidates.** Upon receipt of a final
37 submittal of qualifying contributions by a participating candidate, the commission or its
38 executive director shall determine whether ~~or not~~ the candidate has:

39 A. Signed and filed a declaration of intent to participate in this Act;

40 B. Submitted the appropriate number of valid qualifying contributions;

41 C. Qualified as a candidate by petition or other means;

- 1 C-1. If the candidate is a gubernatorial candidate, raised at least \$15,000 in seed
2 money contributions;
- 3 D. Not accepted contributions, except for seed money contributions, and otherwise
4 complied with seed money restrictions;
- 5 D-1. Not run for the same office as a nonparticipating candidate in a primary election
6 in the same election year; ~~and~~
- 7 D-2. Not been found to have made a material false statement in a report or other
8 document submitted to the commission;
- 9 D-3. Not had prior requests for certification denied on the basis of substantial
10 violations of this chapter or chapter 13 or certification revoked under subsection 5-A,
11 paragraphs C to G;
- 12 D-4. Not failed to pay any civil penalty assessed by the commission under this Title,
13 except that a candidate has 3 business days from the date of the request for
14 certification to pay the outstanding penalty and remain eligible for certification; and
- 15 E. Otherwise met the requirements for participation in this Act.

16 The commission or its executive director shall certify a candidate complying with the
17 requirements of this section as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate as soon as possible
18 ~~and after final~~ submittal of qualifying contributions and other supporting documents
19 required under subsection 4 but no later than 3 business days after final submittal of
20 qualifying contributions for legislative candidates and 5 business days for gubernatorial
21 candidates. The commission and its executive director may take additional time if further
22 investigation is necessary to verify compliance with this Act as long as the commission
23 notifies the candidate regarding the anticipated schedule for conclusion of the
24 investigation.

25 ~~Upon certification, a candidate must transfer to the fund any unspent seed money~~
26 ~~contributions.~~ A certified candidate must comply with all requirements of this Act after
27 certification and throughout the primary and general election periods. Failure to do so is
28 a violation of this chapter.

29 **5-A. Revocation of certification.** The certification of a participating candidate may
30 be revoked at any time if the commission determines that the candidate or an agent of the
31 candidate:

- 32 A. Did not submit the required number of valid qualifying contributions;
- 33 B. Failed to qualify as a candidate by petition or other means;
- 34 C. Submitted any fraudulent qualifying contributions or qualifying contributions that
35 were not made by the named contributor;
- 36 D. Misrepresented to a contributor the purpose of the qualifying contribution or
37 obtaining the contributor's signature on the receipt and acknowledgement form;
- 38 E. Failed to fully comply with the seed money restrictions;

1 F. Knowingly accepted any contributions, including any in-kind contributions, or
2 used funds other than fund revenues distributed under this chapter to make campaign-
3 related expenditures without the permission of the commission;

4 G. Knowingly made a false statement or material misrepresentation in any report or
5 other document required to be filed under this chapter or chapter 13; or

6 H. Otherwise substantially violated the provisions of this chapter or chapter 13.

7 The determination to revoke the certification of a candidate must be made by a vote of the
8 members of the commission after an opportunity for a hearing. A candidate whose
9 certification is revoked shall return all unspent funds to the commission within 3 days of
10 the commission's decision and may be required to return all funds distributed to the
11 candidate. In addition to the requirement to return funds, the candidate may be subject to
12 a civil penalty under section 1127. The candidate may appeal the commission's decision
13 to revoke certification in the same manner provided in subsection 14, paragraph C.

14 **6. Restrictions on contributions and expenditures for certified candidates.** After
15 certification, a candidate must limit the candidate's campaign expenditures and
16 obligations, including outstanding obligations, to the revenues distributed to the candidate
17 from the fund and may not accept any contributions unless specifically authorized by the
18 commission. Candidates may also accept and spend interest earned on fund revenues in
19 campaign bank accounts. All revenues distributed to a certified candidate from the fund
20 must be used for campaign-related purposes. The candidate, the treasurer, the candidate's
21 committee authorized pursuant to section 1013-A, subsection 1 or any agent of the
22 candidate and committee may not use these revenues for any but campaign-related
23 purposes. A candidate may not spend fund revenues on payments to the candidate, a
24 member of the candidate's immediate family or a business or nonprofit entity affiliated
25 with the candidate, except to make payment for goods or property provided to the
26 candidate's campaign. A candidate may not use fund revenues to pay or reimburse a
27 member of the candidate's immediate family for services provided to the campaign. The
28 commission shall publish guidelines outlining permissible campaign-related expenditures.

29 **6-A. Assisting a person to become an opponent.** A candidate or a person who later
30 becomes a candidate and who is seeking certification under subsection 5, or an agent of
31 that candidate, may not assist another person in qualifying as a candidate for the same
32 office if such a candidacy would result in the distribution of revenues under subsections 7
33 and 8 for certified candidates in a contested election.

34 **7. Timing of fund distribution.** The commission shall distribute to certified
35 candidates revenues from the fund in amounts determined under subsection 8 in the
36 following manner.

37 A. Within 3 days after certification, for candidates certified prior to March 15th of
38 the election year, revenues from the fund must be distributed as if the candidates are
39 in an uncontested primary election.

40 B. Within 3 days after certification, for all candidates certified between March 15th
41 and April 15th of the election year, revenues from the fund must be distributed
42 according to whether the candidate is in a contested or uncontested primary election.

1 B-1. For candidates in contested primary elections receiving a distribution under
2 paragraph A, additional revenues from the fund must be distributed within 3 days of
3 March 15th of the election year.

4 C. ~~Within~~ No later than 3 days after the primary election results are certified, for
5 general election certified candidates, revenues from the fund must be distributed
6 according to whether the candidate is in a contested or uncontested general election.

7 Funds may be distributed to certified candidates under this section by any mechanism that
8 is expeditious, ensures accountability and safeguards the integrity of the fund.

9 **7-A. Deposit into account.** The candidate or committee authorized pursuant to
10 section 1013-A, subsection 1 shall deposit all revenues from the fund and all seed money
11 contributions in a campaign account with a bank or other financial institution. The
12 campaign funds must be segregated from, and may not be commingled with, any other
13 funds.

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

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

23 B. For uncontested legislative primary elections, the amount of revenues distributed
24 is the average amount of campaign expenditures made by each candidate during all
25 uncontested primary election races for the immediately preceding 2 primary
26 elections, as reported in the initial filing period subsequent to the primary election,
27 for the respective offices of State Senate and State House of Representatives.

28 C. For contested legislative general elections, the amount of revenues distributed is
29 the average amount of campaign expenditures made by each candidate during all
30 contested general election races for the immediately preceding 2 general elections, as
31 reported in the initial filing period subsequent to the general election, for the
32 respective offices of State Senate and State House of Representatives.

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

36 E. For gubernatorial primary elections, the amount of revenues distributed is
37 \$200,000 per candidate in the primary election.

38 F. For gubernatorial general elections, the amount of revenues distributed is
39 ~~\$400,000~~ \$600,000 per candidate in the general election.

40 If the immediately preceding election cycles do not contain sufficient electoral data, the
41 commission shall use information from the most recent applicable elections.

1 **9. Matching funds.** When any ~~campaign, finance or election~~ report required under
2 this chapter or chapter 13 shows that the sum of a candidate's expenditures or obligations,
3 ~~or funds raised or borrowed~~ contributions and loans, or fund revenues received,
4 whichever is greater, alone or in conjunction with independent expenditures reported
5 under section 1019-B, exceeds the distribution amount under subsection 8 sum of an
6 opposing certified candidate's fund revenues, in conjunction with independent
7 expenditures, the commission shall issue immediately to ~~any~~ the opposing ~~Maine Clean~~
8 ~~Election Act~~ certified candidate an additional amount equivalent to the ~~reported excess~~
9 difference. Matching funds for certified candidates for the Legislature are limited to 2
10 times the amount originally distributed under subsection 8, paragraph A, ~~or C, E or F,~~
11 whichever is applicable. Matching funds for certified candidates in a gubernatorial
12 election are limited to the amount originally distributed under subsection 8, paragraph E
13 or F, whichever is applicable.

14 **10. Candidate not enrolled in a party.** An unenrolled candidate ~~certified who~~
15 submits the required number of qualifying contributions and other required documents
16 under subsection 4 by 5:00 p.m. on April 15th preceding the primary election and who is
17 certified is eligible for revenues from the fund in the same amounts and at the same time
18 as an uncontested primary election candidate and a general election candidate as specified
19 in subsections 7 and 8. ~~For~~ Otherwise, an unenrolled candidate ~~not certified by April~~
20 ~~15th at 5:00 p.m. the deadline for filing~~ must submit the required number of qualifying
21 contributions is and the other required documents under subsection 4 by 5:00 p.m. on
22 June 2nd preceding the general election. ~~An unenrolled candidate certified after April~~
23 ~~15th at 5:00 p.m. If certified, the candidate~~ is eligible for revenues from the fund in the
24 same amounts as a general election candidate, as specified in subsections 7 and
25 subsection 8. Revenues for the general election must be distributed to the candidate no
26 later than 3 days after certification.

27 **11. Other procedures.** The commission shall establish by rule procedures for
28 qualification, certification, disbursement of fund revenues and return of unspent fund
29 revenues for races involving special elections, recounts, vacancies, withdrawals or
30 replacement candidates.

31 **12. Reporting; unspent revenue.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
32 participating and certified candidates shall report any money collected, all campaign
33 expenditures, obligations and related activities to the commission according to procedures
34 developed by the commission. Upon the filing of a final report for any primary election
35 in which the candidate was defeated and for all general elections that candidate shall
36 return all unspent fund revenues to the commission. In developing these procedures, the
37 commission shall utilize existing campaign reporting procedures whenever practicable.
38 The commission shall ensure timely public access to campaign finance data and may
39 utilize electronic means of reporting and storing information.

40 **12-A. Required records.** The treasurer shall obtain and keep:
41 A. Bank or other account statements for the campaign account covering the duration
42 of the campaign;

1 B. A vendor invoice stating the particular goods or services purchased for every
2 expenditure of \$50 or more; and

3 C. A record proving that a vendor received payment for every expenditure of \$50 or
4 more in the form of a cancelled check, cash receipt from the vendor or bank or credit
5 card statement identifying the vendor as the payee.

6 The treasurer shall preserve the records for 2 years following the candidate's final
7 campaign finance report for the election cycle. The candidate and treasurer shall submit
8 photocopies of the records to the commission upon its request.

9 **12-B. Audit requirements for candidates for Governor.** The commission shall
10 audit the campaigns of candidates for Governor who receive funds under this chapter to
11 verify compliance with election and campaign laws and rules. Within one month of
12 declaring an intention to qualify for public financing, a candidate for Governor, the
13 campaign's treasurer and any other relevant campaign staff shall meet with the staff of the
14 commission to discuss audit standards, expenditure guidelines and record-keeping
15 requirements.

16 **13. Distributions not to exceed amount in fund.** The commission may not
17 distribute revenues to certified candidates in excess of the total amount of money
18 deposited in the fund as set forth in section 1124. Notwithstanding any other provisions
19 of this chapter, if the commission determines that the revenues in the fund are insufficient
20 to meet distributions under subsections 8 or 9, the commission may permit certified
21 candidates to accept and spend contributions, reduced by any seed money contributions,
22 aggregating no more than \$500 per donor per election for gubernatorial candidates and
23 \$250 per donor per election for State Senate and State House candidates, up to the
24 applicable amounts set forth in subsections 8 and 9 according to rules adopted by the
25 commission.

26 **14. Appeals.** A candidate who has been denied certification as a Maine Clean
27 Election Act candidate, the opponent of a candidate who has been granted certification as
28 a Maine Clean Election Act candidate or other interested persons may challenge a
29 certification decision by the commission or its executive director as follows.

30 A. A challenger may appeal to the full commission within 7 days of the
31 certification decision. The appeal must be in writing and must set forth the reasons
32 for the appeal.

33 B. Within 5 days after an appeal is properly made and after notice is given to the
34 challenger and any opponent, the commission shall hold a hearing, except that the
35 commission may extend this period upon agreement of the challenger and the
36 candidate whose certification is the subject of the appeal, or in response to the request
37 of either party upon a showing of good cause. The appellant has the burden of
38 ~~providing evidence to demonstrate~~ proving that the commission certification
39 was improper in error as a matter of law or was based on factual error. The
40 commission must rule on the appeal within ~~3~~ 5 business days after the completion of
41 the hearing.

42 C. A challenger may appeal the decision of the commission in paragraph B by
43 commencing an action in Superior Court ~~according to the procedure set forth in~~

1 section 356, subsection 2, paragraphs D and E within 5 days of the date of the
2 commission's decision. The action must be conducted in accordance with Rule 80C
3 of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, except that the court shall issue its written
4 decision within 20 days of the date of the commission's decision. Any aggrieved
5 party may appeal the decision of the Superior Court by filing a notice of appeal
6 within 3 days of that decision. The record on appeal must be transmitted to the Law
7 Court within 3 days after the notice of appeal is filed. After filing the notice of
8 appeal, the parties have 4 days to file briefs and appendices with the clerk of the
9 court. The court shall consider the case as soon as possible after the record and briefs
10 have been filed and shall issue its decision within 14 days of the decision of the
11 Superior Court.

12 D. A candidate whose certification ~~by the commission~~ as a Maine Clean Election
13 Act candidate is ~~revoked~~ reversed on appeal must return to the commission any
14 unspent revenues distributed from the fund. If the commission or court ~~find~~ finds that
15 an appeal was made frivolously or to cause delay or hardship, the commission or
16 court may require the moving party to pay costs of the commission, court and
17 opposing parties, if any.

18 SUMMARY

19 PART A

20 Part A makes changes affecting campaign finance reports in the Maine Revised
21 Statutes, Title 21-A, chapter 13. Specifically, Part A:

- 22 1. Amends the definition of "person" to remove the word "group";
- 23 2. Eliminates the requirement that the office of the Commission on Governmental
24 Ethics and Election Practices remain open after 5:00 p.m. on election day;
- 25 3. Adds the term "domestic partner" in sections referring to a candidate's spouse and
26 includes a definition for the term in the general definition section for Title 21-A;
- 27 4. Exempts lists of registered voters obtained by party committees from the
28 definitions of "contributions" and "expenditures";
- 29 5. Includes facilities owned by a candidate's immediate family in determining
30 whether an exception to expenditure is applicable;
- 31 6. Clarifies that a state party committee can provide a total of only 20 hours of
32 assistance to a candidate in an election without making a contribution to that candidate
33 and expands the type of service provided from "advice" to "assistance";
- 34 7. Allows party candidate listings to treat federal candidates differently from other
35 state candidates if required by federal election law and to include campaign slogans and
36 logos;

- 1 8. Eliminates the requirement that Maine Clean Election Act candidates sign and file
2 the voluntary spending limits statement;
- 3 9. Requires an outgoing treasurer to certify in writing the accuracy of a campaign's
4 records;
- 5 10. Removes the requirement that the address be included in the disclosure statement
6 in campaign communications financed by the candidate that are aired on the radio;
- 7 11. Requires that communications that name or depict a clearly identified candidate
8 within 21 days before a primary election or 60 days before a general election contain the
9 disclosure statement, unless the communication's purpose has a purpose other than
10 influencing an election;
- 11 12. Extends the prohibition against broadcasting communications without the
12 disclosure statement to agents of a broadcasting station and to online versions of
13 newspapers;
- 14 13. Extends the time period during which fines will be assessed for communications
15 that lack the disclosure statement;
- 16 14. Establishes disclosure requirements regarding certain automated and live
17 telephone calls to voters;
- 18 15. Clarifies that funds that are earmarked for a candidate through a conduit or
19 intermediary are considered contributions to the candidate;
- 20 16. Clarifies expenditure limitations in legislative elections;
- 21 17. Requires that sole proprietorships and their owners be treated as a single entity
22 for the purposes of contribution limits;
- 23 18. Removes the requirement that federal candidates and state party committees file
24 federal campaign finance reports with the commission;
- 25 19. Revises the report filing schedule for candidates, party committees and political
26 action committees to allow the commission to have more complete information upon
27 which to base matching fund calculations;
- 28 20. Establishes a single 24-hour reporting requirement applicable to all candidates,
29 party committees and political action committees;
- 30 21. Changes the amount of a campaign surplus or deficit from \$50 to \$100 that
31 requires candidates to file semiannual reports with the commission;
- 32 22. Requires party committees to retain records of contributions and expenditures
33 and receipts for expenditures;
- 34 23. Expands the period during which a communication that names or depicts a
35 clearly identified candidate is presumed to be an independent expenditure to 21 days

1 before a primary election or 60 days before a general election and requires independent
2 expenditure reports to contain a description of the communications made;

3 24. Increases the fine for not registering as a candidate from \$10 to \$100 and raises
4 the amount of the penalty waiver for a late-filed report for candidates, party committees
5 and political action committees from \$5 to \$10;

6 25. Clarifies when an electronically submitted or facsimile copy is allowed;

7 26. Increases the triggering threshold for political action committees from \$50 to
8 \$1,500;

9 27. Requires political action committees to identify, upon registering, Legislators
10 who have a significant role in fund-raising or decision-making for the committee;

11 28. Requires political action committees to file an initial campaign finance report
12 upon registering with the commission; and

13 29. Clarifies the conditions for dissolving a political action committee.

14 **PART B**

15 Part B makes changes affecting the Maine Clean Election Act in the Maine Revised
16 Statutes, Title 21-A, chapter 14. Specifically, Part B:

17 1. Adds a definition of "immediate family";

18 2. Clarifies the requirements for a valid qualifying contribution;

19 3. Requires that seed money come from Maine residents only and adds restrictions in
20 collection and use of seed money;

21 4. Requires a transfer of funds to the Maine Clean Election Fund on or before
22 September 1st of each year, instead of January 1st, beginning on September 1, 2010;

23 5. Allows the commission to request an advance on the annual amount to be
24 transferred if there will be insufficient funds for an upcoming election;

25 6. Clarifies that Maine Clean Election Act funds cannot be used to pay for goods and
26 services received during the qualifying period;

27 7. Adds new conditions for certification, including whether a candidate has made
28 material false statements to the commission or has been denied certification or had
29 certification revoked due to substantial violations of election laws;

30 8. Requires gubernatorial candidates to raise at least \$15,000 in seed money in order
31 to be certified and establishes procedures for the documentation of seed money
32 contributions to gubernatorial candidates seeking certification;

- 1 9. Extends the period of time the commission has to certify gubernatorial candidates
2 and allows the commission to take additional time to certify a candidate if a compliance
3 investigation is necessary;
- 4 10. Creates a process for the commission to revoke certification;
- 5 11. Increases the amount of the initial distribution to a gubernatorial candidate in the
6 general election to \$600,000 and limits the amount of matching to an equivalent amount;
- 7 12. Prohibits Maine Clean Election Act candidates from using public funds to pay
8 for services provided by the candidate or immediate family members;
- 9 13. Requires the commission staff to audit all gubernatorial candidates who receive
10 Maine Clean Election Act funds and requires gubernatorial candidates and campaign staff
11 to meet with the commission staff in order to discuss spending and record-keeping
12 requirements within one month of the candidate's declaring an intention to seek public
13 financing under the Maine Clean Election Act;
- 14 14. Clarifies the matching funds provision to include all contributions and fund
15 distributions in calculating matching funds;
- 16 15. Clarifies the amount and timing of distributions to unenrolled candidates; and
- 17 16. Updates the provisions regarding appeals from the commission's decisions
18 regarding certification.