

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 780

H.P. 531

House of Representatives, February 26, 2009.

**An Act To Increase the Amount and Number of Qualifying
Contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FLAHERTY of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator HOBBS of York and
Representatives: BEAUDETTE of Biddeford, BLANCHARD of Old Town, EVES of North
Berwick, GOODE of Bangor, MARTIN of Orono, PETERSON of Rumford, THIBODEAU of
Winterport.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§7, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. B,
3 §2, is further amended to read:

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

6 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 571, §11, is
7 further amended to read:

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

10 A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least ~~3,250~~ 5,000 verified registered voters of
11 this State must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that
12 candidate;

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

16 C. For a candidate for the State House of Representatives, at least ~~50~~ 75 verified
17 registered voters from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy
18 by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate.

19 A payment, gift or anything of value may not be given in exchange for a qualifying
20 contribution. A candidate may pay the fee for a money order that is a qualifying
21 contribution in the amount of ~~5~~ 10 as long as the donor making the qualifying
22 contribution pays the ~~5~~ 10 amount reflected on the money order. Any money order
23 fees paid by a participating candidate must be paid for with seed money and reported in
24 accordance with commission rules. A money order must be signed by the contributor to
25 be a valid qualifying contribution. The commission may establish by routine technical
26 rule, adopted in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, a procedure for a
27 qualifying contribution to be made by a credit or debit transaction and by electronic funds
28 transfer over the Internet. Records containing information provided by individuals who
29 have made qualifying contributions over the Internet are confidential, except for the name
30 of the individual making the contribution, the date of the contribution, the individual's
31 residential address and the name and office sought of the candidate in whose support the
32 contribution was made.

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

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This bill increases the amount of a qualifying contribution under the Maine Clean
38 Election Act from \$5 to \$10, increases the number of qualifying contributions a
39 gubernatorial candidate must collect from 3,250 to 5,000 and increases the number of
40 qualifying contributions a candidate for the State House of Representatives must collect

1 from 50 to 75. The number of qualifying contributions a candidate for State Senate must
2 collect remains at 150.