

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 1065

S.P. 399

In Senate, March 17, 2009

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**An Act To Change the Campaign Finance Laws Pertaining to  
Campaign Contributions To Allow for Increases Indexed to  
Inflation**

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

Handwritten signature of Joy J. O'Brien in cursive.

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOODALL of Sagadahoc.  
Cosponsored by Representative TRINWARD of Waterville and  
Senators: President MITCHELL of Kennebec, PLOWMAN of Penobscot, SULLIVAN of  
York, Representative: FITTS of Pittsfield.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. A, §10,  
3 is further amended to read:

4 **1. Individuals.** An individual may not make contributions to a candidate in support  
5 of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than ~~\$500 in any election~~ \$1,000 for a  
6 primary election and \$1,000 for a general election for a gubernatorial candidate or more  
7 than ~~\$250 in any election~~ \$350 for a primary election and \$350 for a general election for  
8 any other candidate. A candidate may raise the funds for a primary election and a  
9 general election at the same time as long as the candidate deposits the funds raised into 2  
10 separate accounts. A portion of the funds not to exceed \$1,000 for a gubernatorial  
11 candidate or \$350 for any other candidate must be deposited in an account to be used for  
12 the primary election, and a portion of the funds not to exceed \$1,000 for a gubernatorial  
13 candidate or \$350 for any other candidate must be deposited in an account to be used for  
14 the general election. This limitation subsection does not apply to contributions in support  
15 of a candidate by that candidate or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner. Every 2  
16 years beginning on September 1, 2011, the commission shall calculate an adjustment to  
17 the contribution limits listed in this subsection to the Consumer Price Index published  
18 monthly by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The  
19 adjustment must be based on the difference between the price index on the date of  
20 comparison and the price index on the base period. The base period is the price index on  
21 September 1, 2009. In the event that this adjustment leads to an amount that is not a  
22 multiple of \$25, the amount must be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$25. The  
23 commission has the authority to submit legislation to adjust the contribution limits to  
24 reflect the indexing.

25 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. A, §11,  
26 is further amended to read:

27 **2. Committees; corporations; associations.** A political committee, political action  
28 committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization  
29 may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person  
30 aggregating more than ~~\$500 in any election~~ \$1,000 for the primary election and \$1,000  
31 for the general election for a gubernatorial candidate or more than ~~\$250 in any election~~  
32 \$350 for a primary election and \$350 for a general election for any other candidate. A  
33 candidate may raise the funds for a primary election and a general election at the same  
34 time as long as the candidate deposits the funds raised into 2 separate accounts. A  
35 portion of the funds not to exceed \$1,000 for a gubernatorial candidate or \$350 for any  
36 other candidate must be deposited in an account to be used for the primary election, and a  
37 portion of the funds not to exceed \$1,000 for a gubernatorial candidate or \$350 for any  
38 other candidate must be deposited in an account to be used for the general election.  
39 Every 2 years beginning September 1, 2011, the commission shall calculate an  
40 adjustment to the contribution limits listed in this subsection to the Consumer Price Index  
41 published monthly by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.  
42 The adjustment must be based on the difference between the price index on the date of  
43 comparison and the price index on the base period. The base period is the price on  
44 September 1, 2009. In the event that this adjustment leads to an amount that is not a

1. multiple of \$25, the amount must be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$25. The  
2. commission has the authority to submit legislation to adjust the contribution limits to  
3. reflect the indexing.

4

#### SUMMARY

5 This bill raises the gubernatorial campaign contribution limit from \$500 to \$1,000 for  
6 any election. It also raises the campaign contribution limit for all other candidates from  
7 \$250 to \$350 for any election. This bill also allows a candidate to raise money for a  
8 primary and a general election at the same time as long as the contribution is distributed  
9 into 2 separate accounts and that the total contribution does not exceed the total  
10 contribution limit of \$2,000 for a gubernatorial candidate, not to exceed \$1,000 for the  
11 primary election and \$1,000 for the general election, or \$700 for any other candidate, not  
12 to exceed \$350 for the primary election and \$350 for the general election. The bill also  
13 ties the contribution limits to the Consumer Price Index published by the United States  
14 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics every 2 years, with the calculations  
15 beginning in September 2011. An adjustment will be made based on the difference  
16 between the Consumer Price Index on the date of calculation and the Consumer Price  
17 Index on the date of the base period, September 1, 2009. If this adjustment does not  
18 create an amount that is a multiple of \$25, it will be rounded to the nearest multiple of  
19 \$25. The bill also authorizes the commission to submit legislation to adjust the  
20 contribution limits to reflect the indexing.