

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2010

Legislative Document

No. 1546

S.P. 592

In Senate, December 17, 2009

An Act To Improve Disclosure of Campaign Finance Information and the Operation of the Maine Clean Election Act

Reported by Senator SULLIVAN of York 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 December 17, 2009. Referred to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 190, Pt. A, §8,
3 is further amended to read:

4 **1. Contributions.** A party committee shall report all contributions in cash or in kind
5 from a single contributor during the reporting period that in the aggregate 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 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§4-A, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443,
10 Pt. A, §17, is further amended to read:

11 E. A state party committee shall report ~~any expenditure of \$500 contributions~~
12 aggregating \$1,000 or more from any one contributor or single expenditures of
13 \$1,000 or more made after the 4th day before the election and more than 24 hours
14 before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election within 24 hours of that expenditure those
15 contributions or expenditures.

16 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§4-B, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443,
17 Pt. A, §17, is further amended to read:

18 C. ~~Any expenditure of contributions aggregating \$1,000 or more from any one~~
19 contributor or single expenditures of \$1,000 or more made after the 14th day before
20 any election and more than 24 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of the election
21 must be reported within 24 hours of that expenditure those contributions or
22 expenditures.

23 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1059, sub-§2, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. A,
24 §35, is further amended to read:

25 E. A committee shall report ~~any expenditure of \$500 contributions aggregating~~
26 \$1,000 or more from any one contributor or single expenditures of \$1,000 or more
27 made after the 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m.
28 on the day of the election within 24 hours of that expenditure those contributions or
29 expenditures.

30 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§12-A, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 302, §21,
31 is repealed.

32 **Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§12-A, ¶E** is enacted to read:

33 E. A document such as an invoice, contract or timesheet that specifies in detail the
34 services provided by a vendor who was paid \$500 or more for the election cycle for
35 providing campaign staff or consulting services to a candidate.

1

SUMMARY

2 This bill amends the existing requirements for political action committees and party
3 committees to file campaign finance reports within 24 hours of receiving large
4 contributions and making large expenditures during the last 13 days before an election.
5 Under the bill, the reporting requirements for political action committees and party
6 committees in this 13-day period are the same as the requirements for candidates. The
7 bill requires political action committees and party committees to report any contribution
8 of \$1,000 or more received during the 13-day period. Under existing law, those
9 contributions are not publicly reported until the regular financial report filed 42 days after
10 the election. It also increases the threshold for political action committees and party
11 committees to report large expenditures from \$500 to \$1,000.

12 The bill clarifies when a party committee must itemize contributions in its regular
13 campaign finance reports. It specifies that a party committee must itemize contributions
14 received from the same source totaling more than \$200 during the time period covered by
15 the report.

16 The bill amends a requirement that a Maine Clean Election Act candidate keep a
17 record specifying the work performed by a vendor if the candidate has paid \$500 or more
18 in public campaign funds to the vendor. The bill limits the requirement to campaign staff
19 and consulting services, rather than services provided by vendors generally.