

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 820

H.P. 616

House of Representatives, March 3, 2011

An Act To Alter the Distribution of Maine Clean Election Act Funding

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAREY of Lewiston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. F,
3 §1 and c. 443, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

4 A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least ~~3,250~~ 750 verified registered voters of this
5 State must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that
6 candidate;

7 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 105, §1, is
8 further amended to read:

9 **6. Restrictions on contributions and expenditures for certified candidates.** After
10 certification, a candidate must limit the candidate's campaign expenditures and
11 obligations, including outstanding obligations, to the revenues distributed to the candidate
12 from the fund and, except as provided in subsection 6-D, may not accept any
13 contributions unless specifically authorized by the commission. Candidates may also
14 accept and spend interest earned on fund revenues in campaign bank accounts. All
15 revenues distributed to a certified candidate from the fund must be used for campaign-
16 related purposes. The candidate, the treasurer, the candidate's committee authorized
17 pursuant to section 1013-A, subsection 1 or any agent of the candidate and committee
18 may not use these revenues for any but campaign-related purposes. A television
19 advertisement purchased with these revenues must be closed-captioned when closed-
20 captioning is available from the broadcasting station ~~who~~ that will broadcast the
21 advertisement. The commission shall publish guidelines outlining permissible
22 campaign-related expenditures.

23 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6-D** is enacted to read:

24 **6-D. Additional contributions authorized; gubernatorial candidates.** After
25 certification pursuant to subsection 5, a gubernatorial candidate may continue to collect
26 contributions in the amount of \$5 from verified registered voters in this State. A voter
27 who provides a qualifying contribution during the qualifying period to a candidate in a
28 contested primary may provide an additional \$5 contribution to that candidate after
29 certification pursuant to subsection 5.

30 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 363, §8, is
31 further amended to read:

32 E. For contested gubernatorial primary elections, the amount of revenues distributed
33 is ~~\$400,000~~ an amount equal to \$55 for each qualifying contribution collected
34 pursuant to subsection 3, paragraph A, up to a maximum of \$350,000 per candidate in
35 the primary election.

36 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. B,
37 §6, is further amended to read:

38 F. For gubernatorial general elections, the amount of revenues distributed is
39 ~~\$600,000~~ an amount equal to \$55 for each qualifying contribution collected pursuant
40 to subsection 3, paragraph A if that amount was not distributed pursuant to paragraph

