

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 770

H.P. 521

House of Representatives, February 28, 2013

**An Act Regarding Corporate and Other Entity Campaign
Advertising Disclosure and Accountability**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MacDONALD of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Representative KRUGER of Thomaston and
Representatives: CAREY of Lewiston, GRANT of Gardiner, MASTRACCIO of Sanford,
SANBORN of Gorham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015-B** is enacted to read:

3 **§1015-B. Political activities by corporations and other groups**

4 In addition to any applicable disclosure and reporting requirements prescribed by this
5 chapter, a corporation or group that makes contributions shall comply with this section.

6 For purposes of this section, "group" means a political action committee, firm,
7 partnership, trade or professional association or union.

8 **1. Contributions and expenditures by corporations and groups.** A corporation or
9 group that makes a contribution or expenditure to support or defeat a candidate,
10 referendum, direct initiative of legislation or people's veto referendum of more than
11 \$2,000 in a calendar year shall submit a report to the commission within 60 days of the
12 contribution or expenditure. The report must include but is not limited to:

13 A. The amount of the contribution or expenditure; and

14 B. The candidate, referendum, direct initiative of legislation or people's veto
15 referendum to which the contribution or expenditure relates.

16 Reports required by this subsection must be retained by the corporation or group for a
17 minimum of 5 years. The reporting requirements of this subsection are satisfied if
18 substantially similar reports are filed in accordance with other provisions of this chapter.

19 **2. Television and radio communications; disclosure required.** A political
20 communication made by or purchased by a corporation or group to support or defeat a
21 candidate, referendum, direct initiative of legislation or people's veto referendum
22 broadcast on television or radio must include the following information clearly audible or
23 visible to the viewer:

24 A. The identity of the corporation's or group's chief executive officer or principal
25 officer and the officer's title;

26 B. The city and state of the corporation's or group's principal place of business; and

27 C. The following statement, made by the chief executive officer, chair, principal
28 officer or business manager of the corporation or group:

29 "I am (name), the (office held) of
30 (name of corporation or group). (name of
31 corporation or group) paid for and approves this message."

32 For a television communication, this statement must be made with a full-screen view
33 of the person making the statement.

34 **3. Internet communications; disclosure required.** A political communication
35 made by or purchased by a corporation or group to support or defeat a candidate,
36 referendum, direct initiative of legislation or people's veto referendum broadcast on the
37 Internet must include the following information clearly audible or visible to the viewer:

