

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 370

S.P. 138

In Senate, February 12, 2015

An Act To Amend the Lobbyist Disclosure Procedures Law

Reported by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec for the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §314, 2nd ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1993, c. 691, §12,
3 is amended to read:

4 A joint registration expires if the lobbyist or employer notifies the commission in
5 writing that the lobbyist is no longer engaged by the employer to lobby. If termination
6 occurs prior to November 30th, the notification must be given within 30 days of the
7 termination.

8 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §316-A, last ¶**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 691, §17, is amended
9 to read:

10 ~~These forms must be signed by the employee and the signature serves as a certificate~~
11 The employee must certify that the information entered on that the form is true, correct
12 and complete.

13 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §320, first ¶**, as amended by IB 1995, c. 1, §8, is further
14 amended to read:

15 Fees collected pursuant to this chapter must ~~go in equal portions to the General Fund~~
16 ~~and to be deposited into a special revenue account of the commission to be used for the~~
17 purposes of administering and enforcing the provisions of this chapter, including the costs
18 of obtaining, maintaining and upgrading technology to facilitate disclosure of lobbying
19 and campaign finance information to the public.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill amends the laws governing disclosures made by lobbyists by:

22 1. Permitting a lobbyist to notify the Commission on Governmental Ethics and
23 Election Practices of the termination of a lobbying relationship rather than requiring
24 notice by the lobbyist's employer;

25 2. Removing the requirement that state employees must sign annual registration
26 forms in order to facilitate electronic submission of registrations; and

27 3. Requiring the commission to deposit the entire registration fee paid by lobbyists
28 and lobbyist associates into a special revenue account to be spent on administrative and
29 technology costs to facilitate disclosure of lobbying and campaign finance information to
30 the public.