

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1510

Date: 2/24/16

(Filing No. H-527)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1033, L.D. 1510, Bill, "An Act To Improve the Disclosure of Financial Activities by Political Action Committees and Ballot Question Committees"

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1056-B by striking out all of subsections 2 and 2-A (page 2, lines 21 to 43 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

2. Content. A report required by this section must contain an itemized account with the date, amount and purpose of each expenditure made ~~to and~~ contribution for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign; an itemized account of contributions received from a single source aggregating in excess of \$100 ~~\$50~~ in any election; the date of each contribution; the date and purpose of each expenditure; the name and address of each contributor, payee or creditor; and the occupation and principal place of business, if any, for any person who has made contributions exceeding \$100 ~~\$50~~ in the aggregate. The filer is required to report only those contributions made to the filer for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign and only those expenditures made for those purposes. The definitions of "contribution" and "expenditure" in section 1052, subsections 3 and 4, respectively, apply to persons required to file ballot question reports.

2-A. Contributions. For the purposes of this section, "contribution" includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Funds that the contributor specified were given in connection with a campaign;
- B. Funds provided in response to a solicitation that would lead the contributor to believe that the funds would be used specifically for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign;
- C. Funds that can reasonably be determined to have been provided by the contributor for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign when viewed in the context of the contribution and the recipient's activities regarding a campaign; and
- D. Funds or transfers from the general treasury of an organization filing a ballot question report.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROFS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1033, L.D. 1510

1 Amend the bill in section 3 in §1056-B in subsection 4 in paragraph B in the last line
2 (page 3, line 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$50 \$100" and inserting the
3 following: '\$50'

4 Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 5 and 6 and inserting the following:

5 'Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1057, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 334, §25, is
6 further amended to read:

7 **2. Receipts.** The treasurer of a political action committee shall retain a vendor
8 invoice or receipt stating the particular goods or services purchased for every expenditure
9 in excess of \$50 to initiate or influence a campaign.'

10 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 8.

11 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
12 section number to read consecutively.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment removes the provisions in the bill that increase the threshold for
15 itemizing expenditures for political action committees from \$50 to \$100. Under the
16 amendment both political action committees and ballot question committees are required
17 to itemize expenditures exceeding \$50. The amendment also removes the provision in
18 the bill that establishes a framework for reporting by political action committees and
19 ballot question committees of contributions received from multipurpose organizations for
20 the purpose of influencing a candidate election or ballot question.

21 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

22 (See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1510

LR 2490(02)

An Act To Improve the Disclosure of Financial Activities by Political Action Committees and Ballot Question Committees

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-527)
Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund
Minor revenue increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices from implementing this legislation are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Any revenue generated is also expected to be minor.