

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 11

H.P. 12

House of Representatives, January 2, 2019

**An Act Regarding the Acceptance of Maine Clean Election Act
Campaign Contributions on State Websites**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CEBRA of Naples.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§3**, as amended by IB 2015, c. 1, §18, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Qualifying contributions.** Participating candidates must obtain qualifying
5 contributions during the qualifying period as follows:

6 A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least 3,200 verified registered voters of this State
7 must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate;

8 B. For a candidate for the State Senate, at least 175 verified registered voters from
9 the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy by providing a
10 qualifying contribution to that candidate; or

11 C. For a candidate for the State House of Representatives, at least 60 verified
12 registered voters from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy
13 by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate.

14 A payment, gift or anything of value may not be given in exchange for a qualifying
15 contribution. A candidate may pay the fee for a money order that is a qualifying
16 contribution in the amount of \$5 as long as the donor making the qualifying contribution
17 pays the \$5 amount reflected on the money order. Any money order fees paid by a
18 participating candidate must be paid for with seed money and reported in accordance with
19 commission rules. A money order must be signed by the contributor to be a valid
20 qualifying contribution. The commission may establish by routine technical rule, adopted
21 in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, a procedure for a qualifying
22 contribution to be made by a credit or debit transaction and by electronic funds transfer
23 over the Internet. Qualifying contributions may not be made on a website hosted or
24 operated by the commission, the State or a state agency. Records containing information
25 provided by individuals who have made qualifying contributions over the Internet are
26 confidential, except for the name of the individual making the contribution, the date of
27 the contribution, the individual's residential address and the name and office sought of the
28 candidate in whose support the contribution was made.

29 It is a violation of this chapter for a participating candidate or an agent of the participating
30 candidate to misrepresent the purpose of soliciting qualifying contributions and obtaining
31 the contributor's signed acknowledgement.

32 **Sec. 2. Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to**
33 **amend rule.** The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall,
34 prior to the commencement of the next qualifying period as defined in the Maine Revised
35 Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1122, subsection 8, amend portions of section 2 of its rule
36 Chapter 3: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions to eliminate the
37 commission's authority to establish an online service for members of the public to make
38 qualifying contributions in support of candidates seeking Maine Clean Election Act
39 funding.

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SUMMARY

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This bill prohibits candidates who are seeking certification under the Maine Clean Election Act from collecting qualifying contributions over the Internet on a website hosted or operated by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, the State or a state agency.

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