

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 780

S.P. 224

In Senate, February 12, 2019

An Act To Change Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative ACKLEY of Monmouth and
Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representatives: COOPER of
Yarmouth, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HICKMAN of Winthrop, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor,
McCREIGHT of Harpswell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 382, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **1. Individuals.** An individual may not make contributions to a candidate in support
5 of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than \$1,500 in any election for a
6 gubernatorial candidate, more than \$350 for a legislative candidate, more than \$350 for a
7 candidate for municipal office and beginning January 1, 2012 ~~more than \$750 for a~~
8 ~~candidate for municipal office or~~ more than \$750 in any election for any other candidate.
9 This limitation does not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate
10 or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner. Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution
11 limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on the
12 Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of
13 Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission
14 shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the
15 date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this
16 information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

17 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 382, §2, is
18 further amended to read:

19 **2. Committees; corporations; associations.** A political committee, political action
20 committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization
21 may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person
22 aggregating more than \$1,500 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate, more than
23 \$350 for a legislative candidate, more than \$350 for a candidate for municipal office and
24 beginning January 1, 2012 ~~more than \$750 for a candidate for municipal office or~~
25 ~~more than \$750 in any election for any other candidate.~~ Beginning December 1, 2010,
26 contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on
27 the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau
28 of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission
29 shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the
30 date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this
31 information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

32 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2020.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill reduces from \$750 to \$350 the maximum allowable contribution for
35 candidates for municipal office.