

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 1902

S.P. 654

In Senate, December 24, 2019

An Act To Define the Term "Caucus Political Action Committee"

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 20, 2019. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 CHENETTE of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1001, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Caucus political action committee.** "Caucus political action committee"
4 means a political action committee designated under section 1053-C to promote the
5 election of nominees of a political party to the Senate or the House of Representatives.

6 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1018-B, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 334, §14, is
7 further amended to read:

8 **2. Limitations.** After an election, candidates may receive donations for purposes of
9 a recount. The donations must be within the limitations of section 1015, except that no
10 limitation applies to donations from party committees and caucus ~~campaign~~ political
11 action committees and from attorneys, consultants and their firms that are donating their
12 services without reimbursement. Candidates may not spend revenues received under
13 chapter 14 for recount expenditures.

14 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1053-C** is enacted to read:

15 **§1053-C. Caucus political action committees**

16 Each appointed leader of a political party in the Senate or the House of
17 Representatives may designate one caucus political action committee to promote the
18 election of nominees of that appointed leader's political party to the body of the
19 Legislature of which that appointed leader is a member. The designation must be made in
20 a letter to the commission and remains effective until it is amended by the appointed
21 leader of that political party in that body of the Legislature in writing.

22 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1122, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

23 **1-A. Caucus political action committee.** "Caucus political action committee" has
24 the same meaning as in section 1001, subsection 1-A.

25 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6-F,** as enacted by PL 2015, c. 116, §1 and
26 affected by §2, is amended to read:

27 **6-F. Participation in political action committees.** A participating candidate or a
28 certified candidate may not establish a political action committee for which the candidate
29 is a treasurer or principal officer or for which the candidate is primarily responsible for
30 fund-raising or decision making. This prohibition applies between April 1st immediately
31 preceding a general election through:

32 A. The date on which the candidate withdraws from a race;

33 B. The date of the primary election or general election for a candidate who loses
34 either election; or

35 C. January 1st immediately preceding the next general election for a candidate who
36 wins the general election.

1 This prohibition also applies to a participating candidate or certified candidate in a special
2 election, except that the prohibition begins on the date of the candidate's nomination.
3 This subsection does not prohibit a participating candidate or certified candidate,
4 including a certified candidate who wins a general or special election, from engaging in
5 fund-raising or decision making for a party caucus political action committee, a ballot
6 question committee or a political action committee formed for the purpose of promoting
7 or opposing a ballot question. This prohibition applies to a participating candidate or
8 certified candidate regardless of the date on which the political action committee was
9 established.

10

SUMMARY

11 This bill amends the laws governing the financing of political campaigns and the
12 Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices by defining "caucus political
13 action committee" to mean a political action committee designated by a party leader in
14 the Legislature to promote the election of the nominees of the party leader's political party
15 to the Senate or the House of Representatives. It allows each appointed leader of a
16 political party in the Senate or House of Representatives to designate one caucus political
17 action committee to promote the election of nominees of that appointed leader's political
18 party to the body of the Legislature of which that appointed leader is a member.