

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 929

H.P. 685

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

An Act To Address Funding for Maine Clean Elections

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro.
Cosponsored by Representatives: JAVNER of Chester, STETKIS of Canaan.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§2-A, ¶C**, as amended by IB 2015, c. 1, §16, is
3 further amended to read:

4 C. Upon requesting certification, a participating candidate shall file a report of all seed
5 money contributions and expenditures. If the candidate is certified, any unspent seed
6 money will be deducted from the amount distributed to the candidate as provided in
7 ~~subsection 8-F~~ subsections 8-B to 8-D.

8 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6-A**, as amended by IB 2015, c. 1, §21, is further
9 amended to read:

10 **6-A. Assisting a person to become an opponent.** A candidate or a person who later
11 becomes a candidate and who is seeking certification under subsection 5, or an agent of
12 that candidate, may not assist another person in qualifying as a candidate for the same office
13 if such a candidacy would result in the distribution of revenues under ~~subsections~~
14 subsection 7 and 8-F subsection 8-B, 8-C or 8-D for certified candidates in a contested
15 election.

16 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-F**, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 1, §25, is repealed.

17 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§13-A**, as amended by IB 2015, c. 1, §27, is
18 further amended to read:

19 **13-A. Distributions not to exceed amount in fund.** The commission may not
20 distribute revenues to certified candidates in excess of the total amount of money deposited
21 in the fund as set forth in section 1124. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this
22 chapter, if the commission determines that the revenues in the fund are insufficient to meet
23 distributions under ~~subsection 8-F~~ subsections 8-B to 8-D, the commission may permit
24 certified candidates to accept and spend contributions, reduced by any seed money
25 contributions, aggregating no more than the applicable contribution limits established by
26 the commission pursuant to section 1015, up to the applicable amounts set forth in
27 ~~subsection 8-F~~ subsections 8-B to 8-D according to rules adopted by the commission.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill repeals the provision of law that directs the Commission on Governmental
30 Ethics and Election Practices to adjust the amount of distributions made from the Maine
31 Clean Election Fund to candidates certified under the Maine Clean Election Act based on
32 the Consumer Price Index and requires the commission to make all future distributions
33 under the Act in accordance with the amounts established in Initiated Bill 2015, chapter 1.