

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SAC
ROFS

L.D. 930

Date: 6/3/21

(Filing No. H- 380)

Minority
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 686, L.D. 930, "An Act To Revise Reporting Requirements for Maine Clean Election Act Expenditures"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Revise Reporting Requirements for Maine Clean Election Act Expenditures and Increase Campaign Finance Transparency'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1017, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §9, is further amended to read:

5. Content. A report required under this section must contain the itemized accounts of contributions received during that report filing period, including the date a contribution was received, and the name, address, occupation, principal place of business, if any, and the amount of the contribution of each person who has made a contribution or contributions aggregating in excess of \$50. The report must contain the itemized expenditures made or authorized during the report filing period, the date and purpose of each expenditure and the name and address of each payee and creditor and any refund that a payee has made to the candidate or an agent of the candidate. The report must also include an itemized summary of the goods or services purchased with each expenditure that exceeds \$1,000. If the payee is a member of the candidate's household or immediate family, the candidate shall disclose the candidate's relationship to the payee in a manner prescribed by the commission. The report must contain a statement of any loan to a candidate by a financial institution in connection with that candidate's candidacy that is made during the period covered by the report, whether or not the loan is defined as a contribution under section 1012, subsection 2, paragraph A. The candidate and the treasurer are jointly and severally responsible for the timely and accurate filing of each required report.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§12, as amended by PL 2013, c. 334, §33, is further amended to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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12. Reporting; unspent revenue. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the treasurer or deputy treasurer of participating and certified candidates shall report any money collected, all campaign expenditures, obligations, refunds received by a candidate or agent of that candidate and related activities to the commission according to procedures developed by the commission. The report must include an itemized summary of the goods or services purchased with each expenditure that exceeds \$1,000. If a certified candidate pays fund revenues to a member of the candidate's immediate family or household or a business or nonprofit entity affiliated with a member of the candidate's immediate family or household, the treasurer or deputy treasurer must disclose the candidate's relationship to the payee in a manner prescribed by the commission. In developing these procedures, the commission shall utilize existing campaign reporting procedures whenever practicable. The commission shall ensure timely public access to campaign finance data and may utilize electronic means of reporting and storing information. Upon the filing of a final report for any primary election in which the candidate was defeated and for all general elections, that candidate shall return all unspent fund revenues to the commission. If the candidate or agent of the candidate receives a refund of an expenditure made for the campaign after filing the final report, the candidate shall return those funds to the fund within 14 days of receiving the refund.'

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

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SUMMARY

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This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. The amendment requires both candidates certified under the Maine Clean Election Act and traditionally financed candidates to include in all required campaign finance reports an itemized summary of the goods or services purchased with each campaign expenditure that exceeds \$1,000.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 930

LR 1031(02)

An Act To Revise Reporting Requirements for Maine Clean Election Act Expenditures

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-380)
Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices as a result of changes to the required content of campaign finance reports are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.