

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1442

H.P. 1058

House of Representatives, April 12, 2021

An Act Regarding Publicly Financed Legislative Candidates in Competitive Primaries

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 8, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.
Cosponsored by Representative: WHITE of Waterville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§7-B, ¶B**, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 1, §23, is
3 amended to read:

4 B. For legislative candidates, any supplemental primary or general election
5 distributions made pursuant to subsections 8-C and 8-D must be made within 3
6 business days of certification by the commission of the required number of additional
7 qualifying contributions.

8 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-C, ¶B**, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 1, §25, is
9 amended to read:

10 B. For a contested primary election, ~~the total distribution of revenues is \$10,000 per~~
11 ~~candidate. the amount of revenues distributed is as follows:~~

12 (1) The initial distribution of revenues is \$10,000 per candidate;

13 (2) For each increment of 30 additional qualifying contributions a candidate
14 collects and submits pursuant to subsection 8-E, not to exceed a total of 240
15 additional qualifying contributions, the supplemental distribution of revenues to
16 that candidate is \$4,285; and

17 (3) The total amount of revenues distributed for a contested primary election may
18 not exceed \$27,140 per candidate.

19 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-C, ¶E** is enacted to read:

20 E. A candidate may receive no more than 8 supplemental distributions under this
21 subsection.

22 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-D, ¶B**, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 1, §25, is
23 amended to read:

24 B. For a contested primary election, ~~the total distribution of revenues is \$2,500 per~~
25 ~~candidate. the amount of revenues distributed is as follows:~~

26 (1) The initial distribution of revenues is \$2,500 per candidate;

27 (2) For each increment of 10 additional qualifying contributions a candidate
28 collects and submits pursuant to subsection 8-E, not to exceed a total of 80
29 additional qualifying contributions, the supplemental distribution of revenues to
30 that candidate is \$1,070; and

31 (3) The total amount of revenues distributed for a contested primary election may
32 not exceed \$6,780 per candidate.

33 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-D, ¶E** is enacted to read:

34 E. A candidate may receive no more than 8 supplemental distributions under this
35 subsection.

36 **Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-E**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §33, is
37 further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

38 Additional qualifying contributions may be submitted to the commission at any time in any
39 amounts in accordance with the schedules in this subsection. The commission shall make

1 supplemental distributions to candidates in the amounts and in accordance with the
2 increments specified in subsections 8-B to 8-D. If a candidate submits additional
3 qualifying contributions prior to a primary election in excess of the number of qualifying
4 contributions for which a candidate may receive a distribution, the excess qualifying
5 contributions may, at the candidate's choosing, be counted as primary election additional
6 qualifying contributions or general election additional qualifying contributions if the
7 candidate has a contested general election. If a candidate submits additional qualifying
8 contributions prior to a primary election in excess of the number of additional qualifying
9 contributions for which a candidate may receive a supplemental distribution, the excess
10 qualifying contributions must be counted as general election ~~additional~~ qualifying
11 contributions if the candidate has a contested general election, ~~but supplemental~~
12 ~~distributions.~~ Distributions based on these excess primary election additional qualifying
13 contributions may not be distributed until after the primary election.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill permits participating candidates for the State Senate and State House of
16 Representatives in contested primary elections to receive up to 4 supplemental distributions
17 of revenue from the Maine Clean Election Fund. The bill allows a participating candidate
18 in a contested primary election to choose to receive supplemental distributions during the
19 primary election or during a contested general election. The bill limits the total number of
20 supplemental distributions a participating candidate may receive in an election cycle to 8.