

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

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Legislative Document

No. 1782

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S.P. 619

In Senate, December 9, 2021

### **An Act Regarding Contributing to Candidates and Political Action Committees**

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

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2021. 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 LUCHINI of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 274,  
3 §5 and affected by §13, is amended to read:

4 **2. Contributions by party committees, ballot question committees and political**  
5 **action committees.** Except as provided in paragraph A, a ballot question committee, a  
6 party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a political action committee and any  
7 other committee may not make contributions to a candidate.

8 A. A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a ballot question committee,  
9 a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus  
10 political action committee and any other political action committee may make  
11 contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating no  
12 more than the amount that an individual may contribute to that candidate under  
13 subsection 1, except that the committee may not make any monetary contributions to a  
14 candidate using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity. Nothing  
15 in this paragraph prohibits a separate segregated fund committee that receives  
16 nonmonetary contributions from a business entity under section 1056-D, subsection 2,  
17 paragraph A from making monetary contributions to a candidate within the limits  
18 described in this paragraph.

19 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1056-C, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 274, §11 and  
20 affected by §13, is amended to read:

21 **2. Contributions by party committees, ballot question committees and political**  
22 **action committees.** Except as provided in paragraph A, a party committee under section  
23 1013-A, subsection 3, a ballot question committee, a political action committee and any  
24 other committee may not make contributions to a leadership political action committee.

25 A. A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a ballot question committee,  
26 a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus  
27 political action committee and any other political action committee may make  
28 contributions to a leadership political action committee aggregating no more in a  
29 calendar year than the amount that the committee may contribute to a legislative  
30 candidate in any election under section 1015, subsection 2, paragraph A, except that  
31 the committee may not make any monetary contributions to a leadership political action  
32 committee using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity. Nothing  
33 in this paragraph prohibits a separate segregated fund committee that receives  
34 nonmonetary contributions from a business entity under section 1056-D, subsection 2,  
35 paragraph A from making monetary contributions to a candidate within the limits  
36 described in this paragraph.

37 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1056-D, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 274, §12 and  
38 affected by §13, is amended to read:

39 **1. Contributions by individuals.** An individual may not make contributions to a  
40 separate segregated fund committee aggregating more than \$5,000 in a calendar year.  
41 Beginning December 1, 2023, contribution limits under this subsection are adjusted every  
42 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of  
43 Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The  
44 commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment

1 and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this  
2 information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

3 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1056-D, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 274, §12  
4 and affected by §13, is amended to read:

5 A. The corporation, membership organization, cooperative or labor or other  
6 organization that established the separate segregated fund committee, referred to in this  
7 paragraph as "the parent entity," may contribute the paid staff time of its employees  
8 and independent contractors to establish the committee and to provide fundraising and  
9 administrative services directly to the committee. ~~The parent entity may also provide~~  
10 ~~the separate segregated fund committee with the use of offices, telephones, computers~~  
11 ~~and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the parent~~  
12 ~~entity.~~

13 **Sec. 5. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2023.

### 14 SUMMARY

15 This bill makes the following changes to campaign finance law effective January 1,  
16 2023.

17 1. It clarifies that a ballot question committee may make contributions to a candidate  
18 up to the applicable limit as long as the funds for the contributions are not derived from a  
19 business entity.

20 2. It clarifies that a ballot question committee may make contributions to a leadership  
21 political action committee that do not aggregate more than the limit applicable for  
22 legislative candidates as long as the funds for the contributions are not derived from a  
23 business entity.

24 3. It provides for the biennial adjustment of the limit on the amount an individual may  
25 contribute to a separate segregated fund committee. The biennial adjustment is based on  
26 the Consumer Price Index.

27 4. It allows a corporation, membership organization, cooperative or labor or other  
28 organization to contribute the paid staff time of its employees and independent contractors  
29 to a separate segregated fund committee it has established.