

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 2/29/24

L.D. 833
(Filing No. H-794)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 522, L.D. 833, "An Act to Prohibit Persons Who Donate to a Governor's Transition Committee and Inaugural Committee from Registering as Lobbyists"

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

'An Act to Establish Separate Inauguration and Transition Committees for a Governor-elect and to Limit Donations to Each'

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1051, as amended by PL 2019, c. 564, §1, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§1051. Gubernatorial ~~transition committee~~ inauguration and transition committees

Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §1051, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 564, §1, is further amended to read:

2. ~~Transition and inaugural activities~~ Inauguration committee; funding. A person may solicit and accept donations for the purpose of financing costs related to the ~~transition to office and~~ inauguration of a Governor-elect. A person who accepts donations for ~~these purposes must~~ this purpose shall establish a committee and appoint a treasurer who is responsible for keeping records of donations and for filing a financial disclosure statement required by this section. All donations received must be deposited in a separate and segregated account and may not be commingled with any contributions received by any candidate or political committee ~~or~~ any personal or business funds of any person or donations received by a committee established under subsection 2-A. All donations received by the committee established under this subsection must be used for expenses related to the ~~transition to office or~~ inauguration; any surplus funds must be disposed of pursuant to subsection 7. A person may make donations to the committee established under this subsection aggregating no more than the amount that an individual may contribute to a gubernatorial candidate under Title 21-A, section 1015, subsection 1.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Sec. 3. 1 MRSA §1051, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Transition committee; funding. A person may solicit and accept donations for the purpose of financing costs related to the transition to office of a Governor-elect. A person who accepts donations for this purpose shall establish a committee and appoint a treasurer who is responsible for keeping records of donations and for filing a financial disclosure statement required by this section. All donations received must be deposited in a separate and segregated account and may not be commingled with any contributions received by any candidate or political committee, any personal or business funds of any person or donations received by a committee established under subsection 2. All donations received by the committee established under this subsection must be used for expenses related to the transition to office; any surplus funds must be disposed of pursuant to subsection 7. A person may make donations to the committee established under this subsection aggregating no more than the amount that an individual may contribute to a gubernatorial candidate under Title 21-A, section 1015, subsection 1, except that the appropriation from the Governor-elect's Expense Account under Title 2, section 3 may be transferred, in whole or in part, to the committee established under this subsection.

Sec. 4. 1 MRSA §1051, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 564, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Limitation on fund-raising activity. A committee established pursuant to this section may accept donations until March 31st of the year following the gubernatorial election. The commission may authorize the acceptance of donations after March 31st of the year following the gubernatorial election if ~~the~~ a committee requests such authorization in order to pay a debt or loan related to the transition to office for a committee established under subsection 2-A or inauguration for a committee established under subsection 2.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment changes the bill title, establishes separate committees for a Governor-elect's inauguration and for the transition to office of a Governor-elect and prohibits the commingling of any donations received by one committee with donations received by the other committee. Under current law, a person is allowed to establish one committee to fund both types of activities. The amendment also limits a person's donation to each committee to no more in aggregate than the amount an individual may contribute to a gubernatorial candidate under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1015, subsection 1. It also authorizes the transfer of funds from the Governor-elect's Expense Account to a committee established for the purpose of financing costs related to the transition to office of a Governor-elect.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 833

LR 1863(02)

An Act to Prohibit Persons Who Donate to a Governor's Transition Committee and Inaugural Committee from Registering as Lobbyists

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-794)

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to adopt the changes in this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.