

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L D 1698

Date 6/20/23 Minority

(Filing No H-604)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P 1087, L D 1698, "An Act to Eliminate Private Donations to the Maine Clean Election Fund"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 19 the following

'Sec. 20. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§7-B, as enacted by IB 2015, c 1, §23, is repealed'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 20 and inserting the following

'Sec. 20. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-B, ¶B, as enacted by IB 2015, c 1, §25, is amended to read

B For a contested primary election, the amount total distribution of revenues ~~distributed~~ is as follows- \$700,000 per candidate

- ~~(1) The initial distribution of revenues is \$400,000 per candidate,~~
- ~~(2) For each increment of 800 additional qualifying contributions a candidate collects and submits pursuant to subsection 8-E, not to exceed a total of 3,200 additional qualifying contributions, the supplemental distribution of revenues to that candidate is \$150,000, and~~
- ~~(3) The total amount of revenues distributed for a contested primary election may not exceed \$1,000,000 per candidate.'~~

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 21 and inserting the following

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

D For a contested general election, the amount total distribution of revenues ~~distributed~~ is as follows- \$1,300,000 per candidate

- ~~(1) The initial distribution of revenues is \$600,000 per candidate,~~
- ~~(2) For each increment of 1,200 additional qualifying contributions a candidate collects and submits pursuant to subsection 8-E, not to exceed a total of 9,600~~

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



1 additional qualifying contributions, the supplemental distribution of revenues to
2 that candidate is \$175,000, and

3 ~~(3) The total amount of revenues distributed for a contested general election may~~
4 ~~not exceed \$2,000,000 per candidate.'~~

5 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 22 and inserting the following

6 'Sec. 22. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-C, ¶D, as enacted by IB 2015, c 1, §25, is
7 amended to read

8 D For a contested general election, the amount total distribution of revenues
9 distributed is as follows- \$40,000 per candidate

10 ~~(1) The initial distribution of revenues is \$20,000 per candidate,~~

11 ~~(2) For each increment of 45 additional qualifying contributions a candidate~~
12 ~~collects and submits pursuant to subsection 8-E, not to exceed a total of 360~~
13 ~~additional qualifying contributions, the supplemental distribution of revenues to~~
14 ~~that candidate is \$5,000, and~~

15 ~~(3) The total amount of revenues distributed for a contested general election may~~
16 ~~not exceed \$60,000 per candidate.'~~

17 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 23 and inserting the following

18 'Sec. 23. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-D, ¶D, as enacted by IB 2015, c 1, §25, is
19 amended to read

20 D For a contested general election, the amount total distribution of revenues
21 distributed is as follows- \$10,000 per candidate

22 ~~(1) The initial distribution of revenues is \$5,000 per candidate,~~

23 ~~(2) For each increment of 15 additional qualifying contributions a candidate~~
24 ~~collects and submits pursuant to subsection 8-E, not to exceed a total of 120~~
25 ~~additional qualifying contributions, the supplemental distribution of revenues to~~
26 ~~that candidate is \$1,250, and~~

27 ~~(3) The total amount of revenues distributed for a contested general election may~~
28 ~~not exceed \$15,000 per candidate.'~~

29 Amend the bill by inserting after section 28 the following

30 'Sec. 29. 36 MRSA §5286, as enacted by IB 1995, c 1, §18, is repealed

31 **Sec. 30. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
32 allocations are made

33 **ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES, COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL**
34 **Governmental Ethics and Election Practices - Commission on 0414**

35 Initiative Adjusts allocations to reflect changes to the timing and total amount of
36 supplemental distributions to candidates receiving funding through the Maine Clean
37 Election Act

38	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
39	All Other	\$865,025	(\$1,816,475)



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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL \$865,025 (\$1,816,475)

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

SUMMARY

This amendment removes the provision of the Maine Clean Election Act regarding timing of the supplemental distribution of funds. It also adjusts the total distribution amounts for candidates to remove the supplemental distribution amounts and instead provides a one-time distribution amount per candidate as follows:

- 1 Seven hundred thousand dollars for a contested gubernatorial primary election,
- 2 One million three hundred thousand dollars for a contested gubernatorial general election,
- 3 Forty thousand dollars for a contested State Senate general election, and
- 4 Ten thousand dollars for a contested State House of Representatives general election

It also repeals the Maine Clean Election Fund voluntary tax form checkoff program

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1698

LR 1033(02)

An Act to Eliminate Private Donations to the Maine Clean Election Fund

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-604)
 Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$865,025	(\$1,816,475)	\$722,100	(\$3,776,600)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill eliminates private donations to the Maine Clean Election Fund (MCEF) and changes the total distribution amounts for candidates receiving funding under the Maine Clean Election Act by removing provisions regarding supplemental distribution amounts and instead providing one-time distributions to candidates. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices estimates that the net impact of these changes will require additional allocations in the MCEF of \$865,025 in the fiscal year 2023-24 and deallocations of \$1,816,475 in the fiscal year 2024-25. The MCEF has sufficient resources in the program to absorb these adjustments.

Additional costs to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services associated with eliminating the income tax checkoff to designate a donation to the MCEF are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.