

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

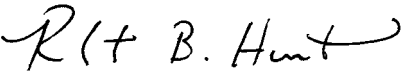
No. 1811

H.P. 1156

House of Representatives, April 25, 2023

An Act to Clarify Required Political Committees 24-hour Reports

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 607, §1 and
3 affected by §5, is further amended to read:

4 A. A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a ballot question committee,
5 a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus
6 political action committee and any other political action committee may make
7 contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating ~~no~~
8 ~~more than the amount that an individual may contribute to that candidate under~~
9 ~~subsection 1~~ \$25,000, except that the committee may not make any monetary
10 contributions to a candidate using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business
11 entity. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a separate segregated fund committee that
12 receives nonmonetary contributions from a business entity under section 1056-D,
13 subsection 2, paragraph A from making monetary contributions to a candidate within
14 the limits described in this paragraph.

15 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§4-A, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323,
16 §12, is repealed.

17 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§4-B, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323,
18 §13, is repealed.

19 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1020-A, sub-§5-A, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323,
20 §19, is further amended to read:

21 B. Five thousand dollars for state party committee reports required under section
22 1017-A, subsection 4-A, paragraphs A, B, and C and E, except that if the dollar amount
23 of the financial activity that was not timely filed or did not substantially conform to the
24 reporting requirements of this subchapter exceeds \$50,000, the maximum penalty is
25 100% of the dollar amount of that financial activity;

26 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1059, sub-§2, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §24, is
27 further amended to read:

28 E. If a ballot question committee is required to file a report 11 days before an election
29 pursuant to paragraph B or C, the ballot question committee shall report any single
30 contribution of \$5,000 or more received or single expenditure of ~~\$1,000~~ \$5,000 or more
31 made after the 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m.
32 on the day of the election within 24 hours of that contribution or expenditure. If a
33 committee under section 1053-B is required to file a report 11 days before an election
34 pursuant to paragraph B or C, that committee shall report any single contribution of
35 \$5,000 or more received or single expenditure of \$1,000 or more made after the 14th
36 day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the
37 election within 24 hours of that contribution or expenditure. The treasurer is not
38 required to include in ~~this report~~ reports under this paragraph expenditures for overhead
39 expenses or compensation paid to an employee or other member of the campaign staff
40 who has received payments at regular intervals that have been disclosed in previously
41 filed campaign finance reports. As used in this paragraph, "overhead expenses"
42 includes, but is not limited to, rent, utility payments, taxes, insurance premiums or
43 similar administrative expenses.

1 **SUMMARY**

2 This bill amends the 24-hour reporting requirements of committees in the election laws
3 by:

4 1. Eliminating that requirement for political action committees in the State, state party
5 committees and municipal, district and county party committees; and

6 2. Changing from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the amount of expenditures required to be reported
7 by ballot question committees in the State.

8 The bill also increases to \$25,000 the aggregate amount that a party committee, a ballot
9 question committee, a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund
10 committee, a caucus political action committee and any other political action committee
11 can contribute to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person.