

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2232

I.B. 5

House of Representatives, February 28, 2024

**An Act to Limit Contributions to Political Action Committees That
Make Independent Expenditures**

Transmitted to the Clerk of the 131st Maine Legislature by the Secretary of State on
February 27, 2024 and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2-C** is enacted to read:

3 **2-C. Contributions by individuals to political action committees making**
4 **independent expenditures.** An individual may not make contributions aggregating more
5 than \$5,000 in any calendar year to a political action committee for the purpose of making
6 independent expenditures under section 1019-B, subsection 1. Beginning December 1,
7 2024, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years
8 based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor,
9 Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The
10 commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment
11 and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this
12 information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

13 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2-D** is enacted to read:

14 **2-D. Contributions by political action committees and business entities to political**
15 **action committees making independent expenditures.** A leadership political action
16 committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus political action committee, any
17 other political action committee or any business entity may not make contributions
18 aggregating more than \$5,000 in any calendar year to a political action committee for the
19 purpose of making independent expenditures under section 1019-B, subsection 1.
20 Beginning December 1, 2024, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are
21 adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States
22 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount
23 divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount
24 of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible
25 website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide for
26 candidates. For purposes of this subsection, "business entity" includes a firm, partnership,
27 corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether
28 organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.

29 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1019-B, sub-§4, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 324, §12,
30 is further amended to read:

31 B. A report required by this subsection must contain an itemized account of the total
32 contributions from each contributor, each expenditure in excess of \$250 in any one
33 candidate's election, the date and purpose of each expenditure and the name of each
34 payee or creditor. The report must state whether the expenditure is in support of or in
35 opposition to the candidate and must include, under penalty of unsworn falsification,
36 as provided in Title 17-A, section 453, a statement whether the expenditure is made in
37 cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, the
38 candidate or an authorized committee or agent of the candidate.

39 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1019-B, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

40 **6. Segregated contributions required.** A political action committee may use only
41 funds received in compliance with section 1015, subsection 2-C or 2-D when making
42 independent expenditures. A political action committee that makes independent
43 expenditures shall keep an account of any contributions received for the purpose of making
44 those expenditures.

SUMMARY

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This initiated bill limits the amount of contributions that may be made by individuals and by political action committees and business entities to political action committees that make independent expenditures. In both cases, the aggregate limit is \$5,000 in any calendar year.