

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2000

Date: 3/13/26

(Filing No. S-542)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 814, L.D. 2000, "An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws"

Amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph C in subparagraph (3) in the first line (page 1, line 34 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$2,000" and inserting the following: '\$1,500'

Amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph C in subparagraph (4) in the first line (page 1, line 35 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$2,000" and inserting the following: '\$1,500'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §11, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Expenditures to influence campaign. A party committee shall report all expenditures made to influence a campaign, as defined in section 1052, subsection 1. For each expenditure, the party committee shall report:

- A. The candidate or ballot measure for which the expenditure was made;
- B. For a candidate, the office sought by the candidate and the district that the candidate seeks to represent;
- C. The date and amount of each expenditure;
- D. The purpose of each expenditure, including whether the expenditure was made to support or oppose the candidate or ballot measure; and
- E. The name and address of each payee.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in paragraph E in the 4th line (page 2, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

Amend the bill in section 3 in paragraph E in the 5th line (page 2, line 7 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph C in the 3rd line (page 2, line 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph C in the 4th line (page 2, line 19 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

'Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 217, §3, is amended to read:

2-A. Ballot question committee. "Ballot question committee" means a person that receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating in excess of \$5,000 for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign, other than a campaign for the nomination or election of a candidate. The term "ballot question committee" does not include a ~~political action committee or an exempt donor party committee, an exempt donor or a political action committee not required to register~~ as a ballot question committee under section 1052-A, subsection 1-A, paragraph A.'

Amend the bill in section 6 in paragraph E in the 4th line (page 3, line 12 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

Amend the bill in section 6 in paragraph E in the 5th line (page 3, line 13 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 7. Qualifying period for Maine Clean Election Act in 2026. Notwithstanding the definition of "qualifying period" in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1122, subsection 8, for State Senate or State House of Representatives participating candidates who file with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices a declaration of intent to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate after January 15, 2026, the qualifying period ends at 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2026.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It reduces the threshold amounts for financial transactions that require candidates for State Representative and municipal office to file reports during the last 13 days before an election from \$2,000, as in the bill, to \$1,500.

2. It removes the extended deadline for certain reports of contributions or expenditures for party committees and reports of independent expenditures but retains the extended deadline for candidates.

3. It removes the direction to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to amend its rules to provide that independent expenditures made during the 60 days before an election must be disclosed in a report within 2 calendar days of the expenditure.

4. It adds a section that clarifies what party committees must disclose in their campaign finance reports, including for each expenditure: the candidate or ballot measure; for a candidate, the office sought and the candidate's district; the date and amount of each

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1 expenditure; the purpose of each expenditure, including whether the expenditure was in
2 support of or opposition to the candidate or ballot measure; and the name and address of
3 each payee.

4 5. It adds party committees to the list of entities that are not included in the definition
5 of "ballot question committee."

6 6. It adds a section extending the qualifying period for State Senate or State House of
7 Representatives participating candidates who file with the commission a declaration of
8 intent to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate after January 15, 2026
9 to 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2026.

10 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
11 (See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2000

LR 2767(02)

An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S.542)
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 from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.