

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 262

S. P. 595

In Senate, February 28, 1929.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Murchie of Washington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Regulate Expenditures in Connection with Matters of Legislation Submitted to the People under the Provisions of Article Thirty-one of the Constitution Providing for the Initiative and Referendum.

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

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation to expend more than the sum of fifteen hundred dollars in any campaign for the purpose of inducing or procuring any person or persons to vote for any question submitted to the vote of the people under the provisions of article thirty-one of the constitution.

Sect. 2. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation to make any expenditure either for printing, publication, postage, hauling of voters or otherwise calculated to induce or procure any person or persons to vote either for or against the passage of any question so submitted unless within twenty-four hours of the time of such expenditure or of the time of incurring any indebtedness in connection therewith such person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation shall report the same to the secretary of state stating whether the expenditure has been made for or against a particular measure and giving the amount of such expenditure or indebtedness.

Sect. 3. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation during a period of ten days immediately preceding the date of any vote on any question so submitted to make any expenditure or incur any indebtedness in connection with the same.

Sect. 4. The secretary of state shall thirty days before the date of any election under the provisions of article thirty-one of the constitution publish in all the daily and weekly papers of the state a statement setting forth the total expenditures made in accordance with the information filed with him under the terms of this act by those advocating the passage and by those advocating the defeat of each item of proposed legislation and giving a list of the parties making such expenditures and said secretary of state shall

10 publish revised figures in each of said papers fifteen days
11 and five days respectively before the date of such election.

Sect. 5. Any person, firm, association, committee, organ-
2 ization or corporation which shall expend more than the
3 sum of fifteen hundred dollars as provided under the terms
4 of section one of this act, shall make any expenditure or
5 incur any indebtedness without reporting the same to the
6 secretary of state as provided under the terms of section
7 two hereof or who shall make any such expenditure during
8 a period of ten days immediately preceding the date of any
9 such election as provided in section three hereof shall be
10 punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or by
11 imprisonment not exceeding eleven months.