

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 524

S. P. 417

In Senate, Feb. 12, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary 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 THIRTY-ONE

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:

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation to make any expenditure or incur any liability either for printing, publication, postage, clerk hire, newspaper advertising, renting of halls or other places, soliciting agents, hauling of voters or any other act or thing calculated to induce or procure any person or persons to vote either for or against any question submitted to the vote of the people under the provisions of article thirty-one of the Constitution unless on the dates hereinafter set forth next ensuing after the making of any such expenditure or the incurring of any such liability such person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation shall report the same to the secretary of the state setting forth in detail the nature and amount of the expenditure made or liability incurred with a proper designation of the question on behalf of which the expenditure was made or liability incurred. For such expenditures as are made and such liabilities as are incurred thirty days or more prior to the date of the election at

which the question is to be determined, such report shall be made on the first day of the month in which such election is to be held and for such expenditures as may be made or such liabilities as may be incurred during said period of thirty days, such report shall be made so as to reach the office of the secretary of state not later than ten o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday in each week during such thirty day period. The last report to be made in accordance with this provision, which shall reach the office of the secretary of state as aforesaid not later than ten o'clock in the forenoon on the Saturday next preceding any such election, shall include in addition to such expenditures as have been made and such liabilities as have been incurred up to the time of the making of such report, a statement of such sum or sums, if any, as such person, firm, association, committee, organization, or corporation proposes to make or incur thereafter in connection with such campaign.

The secretary of state shall, thirty days before the date of any such election, publish in all the daily and weekly papers in the state a statement setting forth the total expenditures made in accordance with the information filed with him under the terms of the foregoing paragraph by any person, firm, association, committee, organization, or corporation giving for each question a list of the parties making such expenditures and the amounts thereof, which list shall for each question be arranged alphabetically. Said secretary of state shall revise and republish such figures in each of said papers fifteen days as near as may be before such election and again in the daily papers of the state on the Monday of any such election.

Any person, firm, association, committee, organization, or corporation which shall expend any money or incur any liability in connection with any such question without reporting it as above provided or who subsequent to the filing of said last report shall expend for any purpose aforesaid more than the amount or amounts set forth in such pre-election report, shall be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding eleven months.