

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT

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E I G H T Y - S I X T H   L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1039**

S. P. 648

In Senate, March 24, 1933.

Reported by Messrs. Holmes, Weeks, Holman, Hill, Eldridge, Tompkins, Farris, Miss Laughlin, Goudy, from Committee on Judiciary, and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

New Draft of S. P. 39, L. D. 13.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE

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AN ACT Relating to Expenditures in Connection with the Nomination of Candidates for Elective Office.

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

**Sec. 2. Organized groups amenable to provisions of R. S., c. 7, § 22.** All the provisions of section 22 of chapter 7 of the revised statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 263 of the public laws of 1931, and by section 1 of chapter 282 of the public laws of the special session of 1932, shall apply to any club or group of voters organized for the purpose of or actually participating in any campaign on behalf of a candidate for nomination to elective office or tending either directly or indirectly to aid the candidacy of any person for any nomination whatsoever.

**Sec. 2. Persons employed in furthering candidacies for nomination shall register.** Any person accepting employment to aid, promote or further the candidacy of any person for nomination to elective office shall, within 48 hours after accepting such employment, cause his name to be entered upon a docket as hereinafter provided and shall file in the office of the secretary of state a full and complete statement of the basis of compensation on which his services in behalf of such a candidate are being rendered.

**Sec. 3. Docket to be kept for registration of those aiding candidates.** The secretary of state shall prepare and keep a docket for the registration of every person employed to promote or further the candidacy of any person who is seeking nomination to elective office, which docket shall be open to public inspection during the office hours of said secretary of state and shall contain the name and address of each such person, the name of the candidate in whose behalf he is interested, the name of the office for which such candidate is seeking nomination and a clear statement showing the basis of compensation, which shall in no event be dependent upon a contingency.

**Sec. 4. Record to be kept of money received for or expended by those furthering a candidate's nomination.** Any person, firm, association or organization who shall receive money for labor, rent, printing, advertising or for any other service intended or designed to further the candidacy of a person for nomination to elective office or who shall furnish any such service or material on credit shall keep a careful and accurate detailed statement of the money received and the credit extended and preserve the same for a full period of 15 months following the date of the delivery or rendering of the materials or service. Every candidate for elective office and every person, firm, association, committee, organization, club, group of voters or corporation who shall hire, contract for, arrange or otherwise provide or secure any material or service intended or designed to further the candidacy of himself or of any other person for nomination to elective office shall keep a full, detailed and correct account of the money expended and the liabilities incurred and preserve the same for a full period of 15 months following the date of the delivery or rendering of the materials or service.

**Sec. 5. Notice to be given of provisions of § 4.** It shall be the duty of any person, whether candidate or political agent or interested worker, who arranges for any labor, rent, printing, advertising or other service intended or designed to further the candidacy of a person for nomination to elective office to advise each and every individual with or from whom he contracts such labor, rent, printing, advertising or other service of the requirements of section 4 of this act.

**Sec. 6. Committee to investigate.** Before the adjournment of the legislature biennially it shall be the duty of the president of the senate to name 2 members on the part of the senate, and of the speaker of the house to name 3 members on the part of the house, to serve as a special committee to investigate the expenditures made and liabilities incurred by and on behalf of candidates seeking nomination to elective office and such committee shall meet in Augusta within 5 days next following any primary

election, or convention to examine all returns of expenditures made under the provisions of chapter 7 of the revised statutes as amended and all returns made in accordance with the provisions of this act.

Said committee may on its own motion and shall at the request of any candidate make a complete investigation into the expenditures made by or on behalf of any candidate and for that purpose shall have full authority to summon and require the attendance of witnesses and the production of records, books and papers and to take evidence pertaining to the matters under investigation.

The attorney general shall act as counsel for the committee and conduct the examination of witnesses called before it and in the event of any infraction of the election laws or any omissions on the part of candidates, their duly authorized political agents or other persons, to account for all expenditures made or liabilities incurred in the conduct of election shall cause appropriate proceedings for the punishment of such offenders to be instituted.

**Sec. 7. Penalty.** Whoever violates any of the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.