

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPECIAL SESSION

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

Legislative Document

No. 1256

H. P. 2275

House of Representatives, July 24, 1940.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and 500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Mills of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY

AN ACT to Prohibit Certain Political Activities.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, recent disclosures have shown that political activities of certain state employees require immediate corrective legislation to safeguard the conduct of elections; and

Whereas, a biennial state election will be held on the second Monday of September next; and

Whereas, it is essential that legislation be immediately enacted to be in operation and effect at the time of said election; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Campaign contributions by corporations prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any corporation to contribute directly or indirectly to the campaign funds of any political party in the state, or to contribute directly or indirectly to the campaign funds of any candidate for office in any primary or state election.

Sec. 2. Individual contributions to campaign funds limited. It shall be unlawful for any individual to contribute to the political campaign funds of any political party or candidate for office in any state or primary election an amount in excess of \$1000.

Sec. 3. Political activity of state employees restricted. No official or employee of the department of the executive, Maine state police, state highway commission, state liquor commission, state forestry service, department of inland fisheries and game, department of sea and shore fisheries, department of health and welfare, public utilities commission, unemployment compensation commission, department of education, industrial accident commission or department of agriculture shall hold office in any organization of the political parties of the state. It shall be unlawful for any said officials or employees to utilize their positions for the furtherance of the political campaign of any candidate for office in state or primary elections, or for the furtherance of the campaign of any political party. It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit funds directly or indirectly for the furtherance of any political campaign from any employee of the state.

Sec. 4. Penalty. Whoever violates any provision of this act shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500, and any official or employee of the state violating any provision of this act shall be removed forthwith from his position upon conviction thereof.

Sec. 5. Limitation. Nothing in this act shall be construed to restrict freedom of education, free assemblage and the right of all men to express their views on any question.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.