

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
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CHAPTER 483

H.P. 1029 - L.D. 1444

**An Act to Strengthen the
Governmental Ethics and Campaign
Reports and Finances Laws**

Mandate preamble. This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21, two thirds of all of the members elected to each House have determined it necessary to enact this measure.

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1001, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

2. Election. "Election" means any primary, general or special election for state ~~or~~ county or municipal offices as defined in Title 30-A, section 2502, subsection 1.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1011, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

§1011. Application

This subchapter applies to candidates for all state and county offices and to campaigns for their nomination and election. This subchapter also applies to candidates for federal offices for the purposes of section 1017, subsection 1.

Candidates for municipal office as defined in Title 30-A, section 2502, subsection 1 and referenda as defined in Title 30-A, section 2502, subsection 2 are governed by this subchapter, with the following provisions:

1. Role of the municipal clerk; commission. For candidates for municipal office, the municipal clerk is responsible for any duty assigned to the commission in this subchapter related to the registration of candidates, receipt of reports and distribution of information or forms, unless otherwise provided. The commission retains the sole authority to prescribe the content of all reporting forms.

2. Exemptions. Exemptions for municipal candidates from the reporting requirements of this subchapter are governed by this subsection.

A. At the time a municipal candidate registers under section 1013-A, the candidate may notify

the municipal clerk in writing that the candidate will not accept contributions, make expenditures or incur financial obligations associated with that person's candidacy. A candidate who provides this written notice is not required to appoint a treasurer or to meet the filing requirements of this section as long as the candidate complies with the commitment.

B. The notice provided to the municipal clerk in paragraph A may be revoked. A written revocation must be presented to the municipal clerk before the candidate may accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations associated with that person's candidacy. A candidate who has filed a notice with the municipal clerk under paragraph A and accepts contributions, makes expenditures or incurs obligations associated with that person's candidacy prior to filing a revocation may be assessed a penalty of \$10 for each business day that the revocation is late, up to a maximum of \$500. This penalty may be imposed in addition to the penalties assessed under other sections of this Title.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

A. Includes:

(1) A gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state ~~or~~ county or municipal office or for the purpose of liquidating any campaign deficit of a candidate, except that a loan of money to a candidate by a financial institution in this State made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business is not included;

(2) A contract, promise or agreement, ~~expressed~~ express or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution for such purposes;

(3) Funds received by a candidate or a political committee ~~which~~ that are transferred to the candidate or committee from another political committee or other source; and

(4) The payment, by any person other than a candidate or a political committee, of compensation for the personal services of other persons ~~which~~ that are provided to the candidate or political committee without charge for any such purpose; and

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1013-A, sub-§1, ¶¶A and B, as repealed and replaced by PL 1991, c. 839, §4 and affected by §34, are amended to read:

A. No later than 10 days after becoming a candidate; and before accepting contributions, making expenditures or incurring obligations, a candidate for state or county office or a candidate for municipal office who has not filed a written notice in accordance with section 1011, subsection 2-A shall appoint a treasurer. The candidate may serve as treasurer. The candidate may have only one treasurer, who is responsible for the filing of campaign finance reports under this chapter. A candidate shall register the candidate's name and address and the name and address of the treasurer appointed under this section no later than 10 days after the appointment of the treasurer. A candidate may accept contributions personally or make or authorize expenditures personally, as long as the candidate reports all contributions and expenditures to the treasurer. The treasurer shall make a consolidated report of all income and expenditures and provide this report to the commission.

(1) A candidate may appoint a deputy treasurer to act in the absence of the treasurer. The deputy treasurer, when acting in the absence of the treasurer, has the same powers and responsibilities as the treasurer. When a treasurer dies or resigns, the deputy treasurer may not assume the position of treasurer unless the candidate appoints the deputy treasurer to the position of treasurer. The candidate shall report the name and address of the deputy treasurer to the commission no later than 10 days after the deputy treasurer has been appointed.

B. A candidate may authorize one political committee to promote the candidate's election. No later than 10 days after appointing a political committee; and before accepting contributions, making expenditures or incurring obligations, a candidate for state ~~or~~ county or municipal office shall appoint a treasurer of the political committee. The treasurer of the political committee is responsible for filing campaign finance reports under this chapter. No later than 10 days after appointing a political committee, the candidate shall register with the commission the following information regarding the political committee:

- (1) The name of the committee;
- (2) The name and address of the committee's treasurer;
- (3) The name of the candidate who authorized the committee; and

(4) The names and addresses of the committee's officers.

Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1013-A, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1989, c. 833, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Party committees. The state, district, and county ~~and municipal~~ committees of parties shall submit to the commission the names and addresses of all their officers and of their treasurers and the name and address of the principal paid employee, if any, within 30 days after the appointment, election or hiring of these persons. Municipal committees must file copies of the same information with the commission and the municipal clerk. District, county and municipal committees ~~which that~~ provide their state party committees with the information required by this subsection to be submitted to the commission ~~shall be deemed to have submitted that information to the commission have met that requirement.~~ No later than the 2nd Monday in April of each year in which a general election is scheduled, the state committee of a party shall submit a consolidated report, including the information required under this subsection, for the district, county and municipal committees of that party.

Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1014, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1991, c. 839, §10, is further amended to read:

4. Enforcement. An expenditure, communication or broadcast made within 10 days before the election to which it relates that results in a violation of this section may result in a civil forfeiture of no more than \$200. An expenditure, communication or broadcast made more than 10 days before the election that results in a violation of this section may result in a civil forfeiture of no more than \$100 if the violation is not corrected within 10 days after the candidate or other person who committed the violation receives notification of the violation from the commission. Enforcement and collection procedures must be in accordance with section ~~4020~~ 1020-A.

Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §1017, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 1991, c. 839, §15 and affected by §34, is further amended by amending the first paragraph to read:

3-A. Other candidates. A treasurer of a candidate for state or county office other than the office of Governor shall file reports with the commission and municipal candidates shall file reports with the municipal clerk as follows. Once the first required report has been filed, each subsequent report must cover the period from the completion date of the prior report filed.

Sec. 8. 21-A MRSA §1017, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:

7-A. Reporting exemption. A candidate is exempt from reporting as provided by this subsection.

A. A candidate may, at the time the candidate registers under section 1013-A, notify the commission that the candidate and the candidate's agents, if any, will not personally accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations associated with that candidate's candidacy. The notification must be sworn and notarized. A candidate who provides this notice to the commission is not required to appoint a treasurer and is not subject to the filing requirements of this subchapter if the statement is true.

B. The notice provided to the commission under paragraph A may be revoked. Prior to revocation, the candidate must appoint a treasurer. The candidate may not accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations before the appointment of a treasurer and the filing of a revocation notice are accomplished. A revocation notice must be in the form of an amended registration, which must be filed with the commission no later than 10 days after the appointment of a treasurer. The candidate and the candidate's treasurer, as of the date the revocation notice is filed with the commission, may accept contributions, make expenditures and incur obligations associated with the candidate's candidacy. Any candidate who fails to file a timely revocation notice is subject to the penalties prescribed in section 1020-A, subsection 3, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Lateness is calculated from the day a contribution is received, an expenditure is made or an obligation is incurred, whichever is earliest.

Sec. 9. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1995, c. 228, §1 is further amended to read:

5. Penalties. A party committee is subject to the penalties in section ~~1020~~ 1020-A, subsection ~~2~~ 3.

Sec. 10. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Municipal elections. When a party committee makes contributions or expenditures on behalf of a candidate for municipal office subject to this subchapter, it shall file a copy of the reports required by this section with the clerk in that candidate's municipality.

Sec. 11. 21-A MRSA §1018, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1989, c. 833, §8 and affected by §21, is further amended to read:

2. Party committee. When a state, district, or county ~~or municipal~~ committee of a party makes contributions or expenditures, aggregating in excess of \$50 in an election, ~~that and~~ expressly advocate ~~advocating~~ the election or defeat of a candidate or candidates, other than by contribution to a candidate or a candidate's authorized political committee, the party committee making the contribution or expenditure shall file a report with the commission. Municipal committees must file copies of the same information with the commission and the municipal clerk.

A. Reports required by this subsection in relation to a candidate for Governor must be filed on the same dates on which reports for gubernatorial candidates are filed under section 1017, subsection 2. Reports required by this subsection in relation to a candidate for state ~~or~~ county or municipal office, other than Governor, must be filed on the same dates on which reports for these candidates are filed under section 1017, subsection 3-A.

B. This report must contain an itemized account of each such contribution or expenditure aggregating in excess of \$50 in any election, the date and purpose of each and the name of each payee or creditor. Total contributions or expenditures of less than \$500 in any election need not be itemized.

C. Reports required by this subsection must be on forms prescribed, prepared and sent by the commission to the candidate at least 7 days before the filing date for the report. Persons filing these reports may use additional pages if necessary, but the pages must be the same size as the pages of the form. Although the commission mails the forms for required reports, failure to receive forms by mail does not excuse committees, candidates and other persons who must file reports from otherwise obtaining the forms.

Sec. 12. 21-A MRSA §1019, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

Each person, other than a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or a party committee, who makes contributions or expenditures, aggregating in excess of \$50 in an election, ~~that and~~ expressly advocate ~~advocating~~ the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, other than by contribution to a candidate or a candidate's authorized political committee, shall file a report with the commission. In the case of a municipal election, a copy of the same information must be filed with the clerk in that candidate's municipality.

Sec. 13. 21-A MRSA §1019, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1989, c. 833, §9 and affected by §21, is further amended to read:

1. Filing dates. Reports required by this section in relation to a candidate for Governor must be filed on the same dates on which reports for gubernatorial candidates are filed under section 1017, subsection 2. Reports required by this section in relation to a candidate for state ~~or~~ county or municipal office, other than the office of Governor, must be filed on the same dates on which reports for those candidates are filed under section 1017, subsection 3-A.

Sec. 14. 21-A MRSA §1020, as amended by PL 1995, c. 228, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 15. 21-A MRSA §1020-A is enacted to read:

§1020-A. Failure to file on time

1. Registration. A candidate that fails to register the name of a candidate, treasurer or political committee with the commission within the time allowed by section 1013-A, subsection 1 may be assessed a forfeiture of \$10. The commission shall determine whether a registration satisfies the requirements for timely filing under section 1013-A, subsection 1.

2. Campaign finance reports. A campaign finance report is not timely filed unless a properly signed copy of the report, substantially conforming to the disclosure requirements of this subchapter, is received by the commission before 5 p.m. on the date it is due. Except as provided in subsection 6, the commission shall determine whether a report satisfies the requirements for timely filing. The commission may waive the penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines the failure to file a timely report was due to mitigating circumstances. For purposes of this section, "mitigating circumstances" means:

- A. A valid personal emergency such as a personal illness or death in the immediate family;
- B. An error by the commission staff; or
- C. Failure to receive notice of the filing deadline.

3. Municipal campaign finance reports. Municipal campaign finance reports must be filed, subject to all the provisions of this subchapter, with the municipal clerk on forms prescribed by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The municipal clerk shall send any notice of letters required by paragraph D and shall notify the commission of any late reports subject to a penalty.

4. Basis for penalties. The penalty for late filing of a report required under this subchapter is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the filing period, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days late, as follows:

- A. For the first violation, 1%;
- B. For the 2nd violation, 3%; and
- C. For the 3rd and subsequent violations, 5%.

Any penalty of less than \$5 is waived.

Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a 2-year period that begins on January 1st of each even-numbered year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify the finding of a violation.

A report required to be filed under this subchapter that is sent by certified or registered United States mail and postmarked at least 2 days before the deadline is not subject to penalty.

A registration or report may be provisionally filed by transmission of a facsimile copy of the duly executed report to the commission, as long as an original of the same report is received by the commission within 5 calendar days thereafter.

5. Maximum penalties. Penalties assessed under this subchapter may not exceed:

- A. Five thousand dollars for reports required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraphs B, C, D, E or H; section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraphs B, C, D or F; section 1017, subsection 4; and section 1019;
- B. Five thousand dollars for state party committee reports required under section 1017-A, subsection 4, paragraphs A and C and section 1018, subsection 2;
- C. One thousand dollars for reports required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraphs A and F; section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraphs A and E; and state party committee reports required to be filed under section 1017-A, subsection 4, paragraph B; or
- D. Five hundred dollars for municipal, district and county committees for reports required under section 1017-A, subsection 4, paragraphs A, B and C and section 1018, subsection 2.

6. Request for a commission determination. Within 3 days following the filing deadline, a notice must be forwarded to a candidate and treasurer whose registration or campaign finance report is not received by 5 p.m. on the deadline date, informing them of the basis for calculating penalties under subsection 3 and

providing them with an opportunity to request a commission determination. The notice must be sent by certified United States mail. Any request for a determination must be made within 10 calendar days of receipt of the commission's notice. The 10-day period during which a determination may be requested begins on the day a recipient signs for the certified mail notice of the proposed penalty. If the certified letter is refused or left unclaimed at the post office, the 10-day period begins on the day the post office indicates it has given first notice of a certified letter. A candidate or treasurer requesting a determination may either appear in person or designate a representative to appear on the candidate's or treasurer's behalf or submit a notarized written explanation of the mitigating circumstances for consideration by the commission.

7. Final notice of penalty. After a commission meeting, notice of the commission's final determination and the penalty, if any, imposed pursuant to this subchapter must be sent to the candidate, treasurer and the Secretary of State.

If no determination is requested, the commission staff shall calculate the penalty as prescribed in subsection 3 and shall mail final notice of the penalty to the candidate and treasurer. A detailed summary of all notices must be provided to the commission and to the Secretary of State.

8. Failure to file report. A candidate or treasurer who fails to file a report as required by this subchapter within 30 days of the filing deadline is guilty of a Class E crime.

9. List of late-filing candidates. The commission shall prepare a list of the names of candidates who are late in filing a report required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraph C or D or section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraph B or C within 30 days of the date of the election and shall make that list available for public inspection.

10. Enforcement. The Secretary of State has the initial responsibility for collecting the full amount of any penalty within 30 days after receiving notice of the penalty from the commission. The Secretary of State has all necessary powers to carry out this responsibility. Failure to pay the full amount of any penalty levied under this subchapter is a civil violation by the candidate, treasurer, political party or other person whose campaign finance activities are required by this subchapter to be reported. Thirty days after receiving notice of the penalty, the Secretary of State shall report to the Attorney General the name of any person who has failed to pay the full amount of any penalty. The Attorney General shall enforce the violation in a civil action to collect the full outstanding amount of the penalty. This action must be brought in

the Superior Court for Kennebec County or the District Court, 7th District, Division of Southern Kennebec.

Sec. 16. 21-A MRSA §1051, first ¶, as amended by PL 1991, c. 839, §26 and affected by §33, is further amended to read:

This subchapter applies to the activities of political action committees organized in and outside this State that accept contributions, incur obligations or make expenditures in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 in any one calendar year for the election of state ~~or~~ county or municipal officers, or for the support or defeat of any campaign, as defined in this subchapter.

Sec. 17. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 504, §§22 and 31, is amended to read:

F. Any county or municipal referendum.

Sec. 18. 21-A MRSA §1055, 3rd ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c. 504, §§26 and 31, is further amended to read:

An expenditure, communication or broadcast which results in a violation of this section may result in a civil penalty of no more than \$100. Enforcement and collection procedures shall be in accordance with section ~~4062~~ 1062-A.

Sec. 19. 21-A MRSA §1058, as amended by PL 1993, c. 715, §4, is further amended to read:

§1058. Reports; qualifications for filing

A political action committee that is registered with the commission or that accepts contributions or incurs obligations in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50 on any one or more campaigns for the office of Governor, for state or county office or for the support or defeat of a referendum or initiated petition shall file a report on its activities in that campaign with the commission on forms as prescribed by the commission. A political action committee organized in this State required under this section to file a report shall file the report for each filing period under section 1059. A political action committee organized outside this State shall file with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices of this State a copy of the report that the political action committee is required to file in the state in which the political action committee is organized. The political action committee shall file the copy only if it has expended funds or received contributions or made expenditures in this State. The copy of the report must be filed in accordance with the schedule of filing in the state where it is organized. If contributions or expenditures are made relating to a municipal office or referendum,

a copy of the report must be filed with the clerk in the subject municipality. Any person or organization organized to oppose a question to be voted on by the electorate at referendum shall report, within 10 days following the drafting of the question by the Secretary of State and prior to the distribution of any petitions for voter signatures pursuant to chapter 11, to the commission as required in this section and sections 1059 and 1060.

Sec. 20. 21-A MRSA §1062, as amended by PL 1995, c. 228, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 21. 21-A MRSA §1062-A is enacted to read:

§1062-A. Failure to file on time

1. Registration. A political action committee required to register under section 1053 that fails to do so in accordance with section 1053 or that fails to provide the information required by the commission for registration may be assessed a forfeiture of \$250.

2. Campaign finance reports. A campaign finance report is not timely filed unless a properly signed copy of the report, substantially conforming to the disclosure requirements of this subchapter, is received by the commission before 5 p.m. on the date it is due. Except as provided in subsection 6, the commission shall determine whether a required report satisfies the requirements for timely filing. The commission may waive the penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines the failure to file a timely report was due to mitigating circumstances. For purposes of this section, "mitigating circumstances" means:

A. A valid personal emergency of the committee treasurer, such as a personal illness or death in the immediate family; or

B. An error by the commission staff.

3. Basis for penalties. The penalty for late filing of a report required under this subchapter is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the filing period, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days late, as follows:

A. For the first violation, 1%;

B. For the 2nd violation, 3%; and

C. For the 3rd and subsequent violations, 5%.

Any penalty of less than \$5 is waived.

Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a 2-year period that begins on January 1st of each even-numbered calendar year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify the finding of a violation.

A report required to be filed under this subchapter that is sent by certified or registered United States mail and postmarked at least 2 days before the deadline is not subject to penalty.

A required report may be provisionally filed by transmission of a facsimile copy of the duly executed report to the commission, as long as an original of the same report is received by the commission within 5 calendar days thereafter.

4. Maximum penalties. The maximum penalties under this subchapter are \$10,000 for reports required under section 1059, subsection 2, paragraphs B, C and E and \$5,000 for reports required under section 1059, subsection 2, paragraph A.

5. Request for a commission determination. Within 3 days following the filing deadline, a notice must be forwarded to the principal officer and treasurer of the political action committee whose report is not received by 5 p.m. on the deadline date, informing them of the basis for calculating penalties under subsection 3 and providing them with an opportunity to request a commission determination. The notice must be sent by certified United States mail. A request for determination must be made within 10 calendar days of receipt of the commission's notice. The 10-day period during which a determination may be requested begins on the day a recipient signs for the certified mail notice of the proposed penalty. If the certified letter is refused or left unclaimed at the post office, the 10-day period begins on the day the post office indicates it has given first notice of a certified letter. A principal officer or treasurer requesting a determination may either appear in person or designate a representative to appear on the principal officer's or treasurer's behalf or submit a notarized written explanation of the mitigating circumstances for consideration by the commission.

6. Final notice of penalty. After a commission meeting, notice of the final determination of the commission and the penalty, if any, imposed pursuant to this subchapter must be sent to the principal officer, the treasurer of the political action committee and the Secretary of State.

If no determination is requested, the commission staff shall calculate the penalty based on the provision of subsection 3 and shall mail final notice of the penalty to the principal officer and to the treasurer of the political action committee. A detailed summary of all notices must be provided to the commission and to the Secretary of State.

7. List of late-filing committees. The commission shall prepare a list of the names of political action committees that are late in filing a report required under section 1059, subsection 2, paragraph B, subparagraph (1), section 1059, subsection 2,

paragraph C or D or section 1059, subsection 3-A, paragraph B or C within 30 days of the date of the election and shall make that list available for public inspection.

8. Failure to file. A person who fails to file a report as required by this subchapter within 30 days of the filing deadline is guilty of a Class E crime.

9. Enforcement. The Secretary of State has the initial responsibility for collecting the full amount of any penalty within 30 days after receiving notice of that penalty from the commission. The Secretary of State has all necessary powers to carry out this responsibility. Failure to pay the full amount of any penalty levied under this subchapter is a civil violation by the political action committee and its treasurer. Thirty days after receiving notice of penalty, the Secretary of State shall report to the Attorney General the name of any political action committee, along with the name of its treasurer, that has failed to pay the full amount of any penalty. The Attorney General shall enforce the violation in a civil action to collect the full outstanding amount of the penalty. This action must be brought in the Superior Court for Kennebec County or the District Court, 7th District, Division of Southern Kennebec.

Sec. 22. 30-A MRSA §2502, as amended by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§2502. Campaign reports in municipal elections

1. Reports by candidates. Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020 do not apply to a candidate for municipal office in a town. A candidate for municipal office of a town or city with a population of 15,000 or more is governed by Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020-A, except that notices of appointment of a treasurer and campaign reports must be filed with the municipal clerk instead of the Secretary of State. A town or city with a population of less than 15,000 may choose to be governed by Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020-A by vote of its legislative body at least 90 days before an election for office. A town or city that votes to adopt those provisions may revoke that decision, but it must do so at least 90 days before an election subject to those sections.

A. Notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 4-A, a candidate who fails to file a notice or report, as required by this section, is guilty of a Class E crime and ~~shall~~ may be punished by a fine of \$5 for every day the candidate is in default or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

2. Municipal referenda campaigns. Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter IV, does not apply to municipal referenda campaigns. Municipal referenda campaigns in towns or cities with a population of

15,000 or more are governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter IV. Copies of the registrations and reports of political action committees must be filed with the municipal clerk. A town or city with a population of less than 15,000 may choose to be governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter IV by vote of its legislative body at least 90 days before a referendum election. A town or city that votes to adopt those provisions may revoke that decision, but it must do so at least 90 days before an election subject to that subchapter.

Sec. 23. PL 1993, c. 583, §3, is amended to read:

Sec. 3. Study by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices; jurisdiction. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall review its current duties prescribed by law and shall identify issues that the commission has been asked to investigate and has not clearly had the authority to investigate. The commission shall make recommendations, along with any proposed legislation, to clarify and, if necessary, to expand the commission's jurisdiction and duties to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal affairs no later than ~~January 30, 1995~~ March 30, 1996.

Sec. 24. Retroactivity. That section of this Act that amends Public Law 1993, chapter 583, section 3 applies retroactively to January 30, 1995.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 484

H.P. 1024 - L.D. 1439

An Act to Provide for Alternative Dispute Resolution in Domestic Relations Matters and to Provide for the Recodification and Revision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19 contains archaic language and improper grammar and usage and is difficult to use because of its organization; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,