

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

December 2021

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13. It prohibits a municipal clerk from issuing to a candidate any absentee ballot other than the candidate's own absentee ballot.
14. It establishes a procedure for the municipal clerk to follow, if an absentee voter provided a telephone number or e-mail address with the voter's absentee ballot application, to assist that absentee voter in curing a defect in the voter's signature, the affidavit or the witness certification on the absentee ballot return envelope.
15. It requires a municipal clerk to verify the voter's residence address and year of birth before issuing an absentee ballot and return envelope to a voter who wishes to vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk.
16. It requires the Secretary of State to establish and maintain an online service that allows an absentee voter to track the status of the absentee ballot process.
17. It provides that the Governor must report the number of votes that each candidate for president received in the final round of ranked-choice voting tabulation both statewide and for each congressional district when certifying the results of the general election for United States President in the State.

LD 1377 An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Disclosure and the Filing of Statements of Sources of Income

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 132 amends the laws governing disclosure of sources of personal income and the reporting of campaign finance information by:

1. Adjusting the deadline for non-incumbent legislative candidates to file statements of their sources of personal income from the first Monday in August to August 15th of the general election year;
2. Eliminating the requirement that constitutional officers and appointed or major-policy influencing executive officials annually file a statement of interests that discloses their positions in corporations or on boards of directors but retaining the requirement that these positions be reported on the officers' and officials' annual statements of their sources of personal income;
3. Requiring state party committees to provide a list of the officers of district, municipal and county party committees to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices by June 15th of each year;
4. Adding clarity to the definition of "independent expenditure" in the campaign finance laws by including within the definition, rather than in an exception to the definition, that an independent

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expenditure is an expenditure that is not made in cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or an agent of either;

5. Extending the time period—from 48 hours after dissemination of the communication to seven days after dissemination of the communication—within which a person paying for a communication that names or depicts a clearly identified candidate shortly before an election may request a determination that the expenditure was not a reportable “independent expenditure”; and
6. Expanding to include Internet video communications the categories of communication funded by an independent expenditure that must conspicuously include a statement disclosing the names of the top three funders of the entity that made the independent expenditure.

Public Law 2021, chapter 132 also amends the laws governing the Maine Clean Election Act by:

1. Clarifying that a legislative or gubernatorial candidate who has accepted contributions that do not comply with the Act's seed money restrictions may not be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate during the same election cycle; and
2. Making technical changes to clarify that certain provisions of the Act apply only after a candidate has qualified for public campaign funding and not during the period when the candidate is seeking to qualify for the receipt of public funds.

LD 1417 An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Reform

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 274 makes the following changes to the campaign finance laws.

1. It defines a “business entity” as a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.
2. It employs the phrase “separate segregated fund committee” to describe a political action committee that is a separate or segregated fund established by any corporation, membership organization, cooperative or labor or other organization whose purpose is to initiate or influence a campaign. It provides that a separate segregated fund committee may not accept contributions from an individual aggregating more than \$5,000 in a calendar year. It also prohibits a separate segregated fund committee from accepting contributions from a business entity, except that the corporation or organization that established the separate segregated fund committee may provide the use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the corporation or organization.