

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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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

3. Like Public Law 2021, chapter 217, it defines a “leadership political action committee” as a political action committee, other than a caucus political action committee, that was directly or indirectly established by a current member of the Legislature or that is directly or indirectly maintained or controlled by a current member of the Legislature. It provides that a business entity may not make any contributions to a leadership political action committee. It also provides that a party committee, a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus political action committee and any other political action committee may make contributions to a leadership political action committee aggregating no more in a calendar year than the amount that the committee may contribute to a legislative candidate in any one election, except that the committee may not make any monetary contributions to a leadership political action committee using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity.
4. It prohibits a business entity from making contributions to a candidate. A party committee, a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus political action committee and any other political action committee may make contributions to a candidate that do not exceed the amount that an individual may contribute to that candidate but may not make monetary contributions to a candidate using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity.

The provisions of Public Law 2021, chapter 274 take effect January 1, 2023.

LD 1434 An Act Regarding Controlled Entry Areas within Retail Marijuana Stores

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 314 allows a marijuana store to have a controlled, indoor entry area directly inside the store where the identification of a purchaser can be verified and the purchaser can await entry into the store.

LD 1485 An Act to Modify the Requirements for Political Action Committees and Ballot Question Committees

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 217 amends the laws governing registration and financial reporting by political action committees and ballot question committees by:

1. Redefining “political action committee” to mean a person, other than an individual, including a corporation or association or a separate or segregated fund established by a corporation or a labor or other organization that receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating in excess of \$2,500 in a calendar year for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any candidate to political office;