

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> 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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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;

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

2. Defining “ballot question committee” to mean a person, including an individual, that receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating in excess of \$5,000 for the purpose of initiating or influencing a ballot question campaign;
3. Defining “exempt donor” to mean a person that has not received contributions for the purpose of influencing a campaign in the prior two years and whose only payments of money to influence a campaign in the prior two years are monetary contributions to or payments for goods or services with an aggregate value of no more than \$100,000 for candidates, party committees, political action committees or ballot question committees. Exempt donors are not political action committees or ballot question committees;
4. Like Public Law 2021, chapter 274, defining 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;
5. Clarifying that a “contribution” to a political action committee or a ballot question committee includes a donation of something of value only if the donation was made for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign;
6. Exempting from the definition of “expenditure” any payments for the purpose of initiating a citizen’s initiative or a people’s veto referendum that are made prior to the submission of an application to the Secretary of State to initiate the petition and signature-gathering process;
7. Requiring that each political action committee and ballot question committee establish a campaign account in a bank or other financial institution that is segregated from the funds of the person or persons that established the committee and amending the applicable definitions of “contribution” and “expenditure” to include, respectively, all funds deposited into and all payments made from this campaign account; and
8. Unifying the registration, financial reporting and record-keeping requirements for political action committees and ballot question committees and clarifying the circumstances under which a committee need not cross-register as both a political action committee and a ballot question committee.

### LD 1575 An Act To Improve Maine’s Election Laws

#### ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 246 makes the following changes to the election laws.

1. It allows an individual who is registering to vote to verify the individual’s identity with a student photograph identification document that is issued by a state-approved public or private