

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

July 2022

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. CRAIG V. HICKMAN, CHAIR\*

SEN. LOUIS J. LUCHINI, CHAIR\*

SEN. BRADLEE T. FARRIN

SEN. DAVID R. MIRAMANT\*\*

REP. CHRISTOPHER J. CAIAZZO, CHAIR

REP. JOYCE MCCREIGHT

REP. JOHN L. TUTTLE

REP. MORGAN J. RIELLY

REP. LAURA D. SUPICA

REP. BARBARA A. WOOD

REP. MARYANNE KINNEY

REP. MATTHEW A. HARRINGTON

REP. PATRICK W. COREY

REP. JOSANNE C. DOLLOFF

**STAFF:**

JANET STOCCO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

SAMUEL PRAWER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, ME 04333

(207) 287-1670

<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

\*Committee chair for a portion of the session

\*\* Committee member for portion of session

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

28-A, section 1361 and by in-state manufacturers of malt liquor or wine licensed under section 1355-A.

### **LD 1751 An Act To Extend the Changes to the Liquor Laws Made by Public Law 2021, Chapters 3 and 91**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 514 extends through March 30, 2025:

1. The authority granted to qualified on-premises retailers and qualified distilleries by Public Law 2021, chapter 3 to sell liquor for off-premises consumption; and
2. The authority granted to licensed Maine distilleries and small distilleries by Public Law 2021, chapter 91 to sell cocktails containing samples of their spirits products for on-premises consumption.

### **LD 1754 An Act To Modify the Reporting Requirements for Major Contributors to Ballot Question Campaigns and To Make a Technical Change to the Campaign Finance Laws**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 530 amends in the following ways the law requiring major contributors, that are non-individuals who contribute more than \$100,000 to a single ballot question committee or political action committee for any one direct initiative or people's veto referendum campaign, to file a report with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices disclosing the five largest sources of funds received by the major contributor during a specified time period prior to and during the time in which the major contributor made its contributions related to the ballot question.

1. It exempts from the major contributor reporting requirement ballot question committees and political action committees that qualify as major contributors but that are already registered with the commission.
2. It exempts from disclosure any funds that are received by the major contributor in the ordinary course of the major contributor's regular trade or business or as investment income; that are restricted to purposes unrelated to the ballot question; or that derive from a source that provided no more than \$5,000 to the major contributor during the specified time period.
3. It restructures and clarifies the enforcement provisions regarding potential violations of the major contributor law and the factors that the commission must consider in assessing penalties.

Public Law 2021, chapter 530 also provides that, notwithstanding that ballot question committees are distinct from political action committees under Maine law, the electronic filing system through

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

which these committees submit their campaign finance reports may categorize ballot question committees as a subcategory of political action committees.

### **LD 1779 An Act To Protect Election Integrity by Regulating Possession of Ballots and Voting Machines and Devices**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 536 makes the following changes to the election laws.

1. It requires the municipal clerk to retain possession, custody and control over sealed containers of state election materials, municipal election materials and unused ballots until the contents of the containers are destroyed in accordance with law, except that the municipal clerk may open or transfer the contents of the containers when the opening or transfer is expressly authorized by state law or rule or by federal law.
2. If a municipal clerk or the Secretary of State produces original ballots in response to a request for inspection by the Governor, either branch of the Legislature, a legislative committee or a court, it requires the requester to maintain sole custody of the ballots until they are returned to the municipal clerk or Secretary of State and requires the municipal clerk, the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee to oversee the ballot inspection process.
3. It prohibits a municipal clerk from transferring possession, custody or control of a voting machine or voting device unless the transfer is expressly authorized by the Secretary of State.

### **LD 1782 An Act Regarding Contributing to Candidates and Political Action Committees**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 607 amends the State's campaign finance laws by making the following changes, effective January 1, 2023, to the provisions of Public Law 2021, chapter 274, which also take effect January 1, 2023.

1. It authorizes a ballot question committee to make contributions to a candidate or a leadership political action committee to the same extent that an individual, a party committee or a political action committee may make contributions to a candidate or a leadership political action committee. Funds contributed to a candidate or a leadership political action committee by a party committee, political action committee or a ballot question committee may not derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity.
2. It provides for a biennial adjustment, based on the Consumer Price Index, of the aggregate amount that an individual may make to a separate segregated fund committee in a calendar year.