

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
S.P. 467 - L.D. 1417

An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Reform

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1004-A, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 628, Pt. A, §1, is amended to read:

2. Contribution in excess of limitations. A person that accepts or makes a contribution that exceeds the limitations set out in ~~section 1015, subsections 1 and 2~~ this chapter may be assessed a penalty of no more than the amount by which the contribution exceeded the limitation.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§4-B is enacted to read:

4-B. Leadership political action committee. "Leadership political action committee" has the same meaning as in section 1052, subsection 4-C.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1012, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Separate segregated fund committee. "Separate segregated fund committee" has the same meaning as in section 1052, subsection 6.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 51, §1 and affected by §3, is further amended to read:

1. Individuals Contributions by individuals. An individual may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than \$1,500 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate, more than \$350 for a legislative candidate, more than \$500 for a candidate for municipal office and beginning January 1, 2012 more than \$750 in any election for any other candidate. This limitation does not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner. Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its

publicly accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 51, §2 and affected by §3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Contributions by party committees and political action committees. Except as provided in paragraph A, a party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a political action committee and any other committee may not make contributions to a candidate.

A. A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, 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 in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating no more than the amount that an individual may contribute to that candidate under subsection 1, except that the committee may not make any monetary contributions to a candidate using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a separate segregated fund committee that receives nonmonetary contributions from a business entity under section 1056-D, subsection 2, paragraph A from making monetary contributions to a candidate within the limits described in this paragraph.

Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Contributions by business entities. A business entity may not make contributions to a candidate.

Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. Business entity defined. For purposes of this section, "business entity" includes a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.

Sec. 8. 21-A MRSA §1015-A, as amended by PL 2013, c. 334, §§5 and 6, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§4-C is enacted to read:

4-C. Leadership political action committee. "Leadership political action committee" means a political action committee, other than a caucus political action committee under section 1053-C, 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.

Sec. 10. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Separate segregated fund committee. "Separate segregated fund committee" means a political action committee described in subsection 5, paragraph A, subparagraph (1).

Sec. 11. 21-A MRSA §1056-C is enacted to read:

§1056-C. Limits on contributions to leadership political action committees

1. Contributions by individuals. An individual may not make contributions to a leadership political action committee aggregating more in a calendar year than the amount

that the individual may contribute to a legislative candidate in any election under section 1015, subsection 1.

2. Contributions by party committees and political action committees. Except as provided in paragraph A, a party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a political action committee and any other committee may not make contributions to a leadership political action committee.

A. A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, 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 election under section 1015, subsection 2, paragraph A, 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. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a separate segregated fund committee that receives nonmonetary contributions from a business entity under section 1056-D, subsection 2, paragraph A from making monetary contributions to a candidate within the limits described in this paragraph.

3. Contributions by business entities prohibited. A business entity may not make contributions to a leadership political action committee.

4. Business entity defined. For purposes of this section, "business entity" includes a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.

Sec. 12. 21-A MRSA §1056-D is enacted to read:

§1056-D. Limits on contributions to separate segregated fund committees

1. Contributions by individuals. An individual may not make contributions to a separate segregated fund committee aggregating more than \$5,000 in a calendar year.

2. Contributions by business entities. Except as provided in paragraph A, a business entity may not make contributions to a separate segregated fund committee. For purposes of this subsection, "business entity" includes a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.

A. The corporation, membership organization, cooperative or labor or other organization that established the separate segregated fund committee, referred to in this paragraph as "the parent entity," may provide the separate segregated fund committee with the use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the parent entity.

Sec. 13. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2023.