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Date: (Filing No. S-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 814, L.D. 2000, “An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws”

Amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph C in subparagraph (3) in the first line (page 1, line 34 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$2,000" and inserting the following: '\$1,500'

Amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph C in subparagraph (4) in the first line (page 1, line 35 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$2,000" and inserting the following: '\$1,500'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §11, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Expenditures to influence campaign. A party committee shall report all expenditures made to influence a campaign, as defined in section 1052, subsection 1. For each expenditure, the party committee shall report:

- A. The candidate or ballot measure for which the expenditure was made;
- B. For a candidate, the office sought by the candidate and the district that the candidate seeks to represent;
- C. The date and amount of each expenditure;
- D. The purpose of each expenditure, including whether the expenditure was made to support or oppose the candidate or ballot measure; and
- E. The name and address of each payee.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in paragraph E in the 4th line (page 2, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

Amend the bill in section 3 in paragraph E in the 5th line (page 2, line 7 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph C in the 3rd line (page 2, line 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph C in the 4th line (page 2, line 19 in L.D.) by
2 striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

3 Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

4 **'Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§2-A,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 217, §3, is
5 amended to read:

6 **2-A. Ballot question committee.** "Ballot question committee" means a person that
7 receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating in excess of \$5,000 for the
8 purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign, other than a campaign for the nomination
9 or election of a candidate. The term "ballot question committee" does not include a ~~political~~
10 ~~action committee or an exempt donor party committee, an exempt donor or a political~~
11 action committee not required to register as a ballot question committee under section
12 1052-A, subsection 1-A, paragraph A.'

13 Amend the bill in section 6 in paragraph E in the 4th line (page 3, line 12 in L.D.) by
14 striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

15 Amend the bill in section 6 in paragraph E in the 5th line (page 3, line 13 in L.D.) by
16 striking out the following: "24 48" and inserting the following: '24'

17 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

18 **'Sec. 7. Qualifying period for Maine Clean Election Act in 2026.**
19 Notwithstanding the definition of "qualifying period" in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
20 21-A, section 1122, subsection 8, for State Senate or State House of Representatives
21 participating candidates who file with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and
22 Election Practices a declaration of intent to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election
23 Act candidate after January 15, 2026, the qualifying period ends at 5:00 p.m. on May 21,
24 2026.'

25 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
26 number to read consecutively.

27 SUMMARY

28 This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

29 1. It reduces the threshold amounts for financial transactions that require candidates for
30 State Representative and municipal office to file reports during the last 13 days before an
31 election from \$2,000, as in the bill, to \$1,500.

32 2. It removes the extended deadline for certain reports of contributions or expenditures
33 for party committees and reports of independent expenditures but retains the extended
34 deadline for candidates.

35 3. It removes the direction to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election
36 Practices to amend its rules to provide that independent expenditures made during the 60
37 days before an election must be disclosed in a report within 2 calendar days of the
38 expenditure.

39 4. It adds a section that clarifies what party committees must disclose in their campaign
40 finance reports, including for each expenditure: the candidate or ballot measure; for a
41 candidate, the office sought and the candidate's district; the date and amount of each

1 expenditure; the purpose of each expenditure, including whether the expenditure was in
2 support of or opposition to the candidate or ballot measure; and the name and address of
3 each payee.

4 5. It adds party committees to the list of entities that are not included in the definition
5 of "ballot question committee."

6 6. It adds a section extending the qualifying period for State Senate or State House of
7 Representatives participating candidates who file with the commission a declaration of
8 intent to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate after January 15, 2026
9 to 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2026.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)