



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 617

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H.P. 430

House of Representatives, March 3, 2015

### An Act To Change Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CHIPMAN of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, GOLDEN of Lewiston,  
GOODE of Bangor, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, RYKERSON of Kittery, SAUCIER of  
Presque Isle, Senator: PATRICK of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 382, §1, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 **1. Individuals.** An individual may not make contributions to a candidate in support  
5 of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than \$1,500 in any election for a  
6 gubernatorial candidate, more than \$350 for a legislative candidate, more than \$350 for a  
7 candidate for municipal office and beginning January 1, 2012 more than ~~\$750 for a~~  
8 ~~candidate for municipal office or more than~~ \$750 in any election for any other candidate.  
9 This limitation does not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate  
10 or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner. Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution  
11 limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on the  
12 Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of  
13 Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission  
14 shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the  
15 date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this  
16 information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

17 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 382, §2, is  
18 further amended to read:

19 **2. Committees; corporations; associations.** A political committee, political action  
20 committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization  
21 may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person  
22 aggregating more than \$1,500 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate, more than  
23 \$350 for a legislative candidate, more than \$350 for a candidate for municipal office and  
24 beginning January 1, 2012 more than ~~\$750 for a candidate for municipal office or more~~  
25 ~~than~~ \$750 in any election for any other candidate. Beginning December 1, 2010,  
26 contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on  
27 the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau  
28 of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission  
29 shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the  
30 date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this  
31 information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill reduces the maximum allowable contribution to a municipal candidate from  
34 \$750 to \$350, which was the limit prior to January 1, 2012.