



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 189

S.P. 64

In Senate, January 27, 2015

### **An Act To Prohibit Undisclosed Political Spending**

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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 "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.  
Cosponsored by Senators: BURNS of Washington, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of  
Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Identification of contributions from certain entities.** A party committee  
4 shall report all donors disclosed to the party committee pursuant to section 1017-B,  
5 subsection 4.

6 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1017-B, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

7 **4. Record of contributions from certain entities.** An entity qualifying for tax-  
8 exempt status under 26 United States Code, Section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5) or 501(c)(6) that  
9 makes a contribution to a party committee shall disclose to the party committee all donors  
10 to that tax-exempt entity during the previous 2 calendar years. The treasurer of the party  
11 committee shall keep a record of the disclosure and may not accept a contribution from a  
12 tax-exempt entity unless the contribution is accompanied by the disclosure.

13 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1057, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

14 **3-A. Record of contributions from certain entities.** An entity qualifying for tax-  
15 exempt status under 26 United States Code, Section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5) or 501(c)(6) that  
16 makes a contribution to a political action committee or to an out-of-state political action  
17 committee that makes expenditures to influence a campaign in the State shall disclose to  
18 the political action committee all donors to that tax-exempt entity during the previous 2  
19 calendar years. The treasurer of the political action committee shall keep a record of the  
20 disclosure and may not accept a contribution from a tax-exempt entity unless the  
21 contribution is accompanied by the disclosure.

22 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1060, sub-§6,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 389, §47, is  
23 further amended to read:

24 **6. Identification of contributions.** Names, occupations, places of business and  
25 mailing addresses of contributors who have given more than \$50 to the political action  
26 committee in the reporting period and the amount and date of each contribution, except  
27 that an organization qualifying as a political action committee under section 1052,  
28 subsection 5, paragraph A, subparagraph (5) is required to report only those contributions  
29 made to the organization for the purpose of influencing a ballot question or the  
30 nomination or election of a candidate to political office and all transfers to or funds used  
31 to support the political action committee from the general treasury of the organization;  
32 ~~and~~

33 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1060, sub-§6-A** is enacted to read:

34 **6-A. Identification of contributions from certain entities.** Donors disclosed to  
35 the political action committee under section 1057, subsection 3-A. Out-of-state political  
36 action committees not required to register with the commission in receipt of donor  
37 information under section 1057, subsection 3-A shall disclose this donor information  
38 within 14 days of receiving a contribution; and

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## **SUMMARY**

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This bill requires nonprofit entities to disclose their donors from the previous 2

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calendar years when making a contribution to a registered Maine party committee,

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registered Maine political action committee or out-of-state political action committee

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making expenditures to influence an election in Maine.