

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND FOURTEEN

—
S.P. 568 - L.D. 1512

An Act To Increase Funding for Start-ups

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation promotes and encourages the growth of Maine small businesses by facilitating the ability of a business to raise capital by selling small amounts of securities to a wider pool of small investors with fewer restrictions; and

Whereas, the enactment of this legislation will provide immediate access to capital and streamline regulations for Maine small businesses without diminishing the regulatory protections for investors; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §16304, sub-§6-A is enacted to read:

6-A. Short-form registration statement. The administrator may adopt by rule a form to be used as a short-form registration statement for securities being registered under this section and sold in offerings in which:

A. The issuer of the security is a corporation or other entity having its principal place of business in this State and registered with the Secretary of State as an entity formed under the laws of this State or authorized to transact business within this State;

B. The aggregate amount of securities sold to all investors by the issuer within any 12-month period is not more than \$1,000,000;

C. The aggregate amount of securities sold to any investor by the issuer, including any amount sold during the 12-month period preceding the date of the transaction, does not exceed \$5,000, or a greater amount as the administrator may provide by rule

or order, unless the investor is an accredited investor as defined in 17 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 230.501 (2013);

D. The offering meets the requirements of the federal exemption for limited offerings and sales of securities not exceeding \$1,000,000 in 17 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 230.504 (2013);

E. The issuer files with the administrator, provides to investors and makes available to potential investors an offering document setting forth the following:

- (1) The name, legal status, physical address and website address of the issuer;
- (2) The names of the directors, officers and any persons occupying a similar status or performing similar functions;
- (3) The name of each person holding more than 20% of the shares of the issuer;
- (4) A description of the business of the issuer and the anticipated business plan of the issuer;
- (5) A description of the financial condition of the issuer, including the following:
 - (a) For offerings that, together with all other offerings of the issuer within the preceding 12-month period, have, in the aggregate, offering amounts of \$100,000 or less:
 - (i) The income tax returns filed by the issuer for the most recently completed year, if any; and
 - (ii) The financial statements of the issuer certified by the principal executive officer of the issuer to be true and complete in all material respects;
 - (b) For offerings that, together with all other offerings of the issuer within the preceding 12-month period, have, in the aggregate, offering amounts of more than \$100,000 but not more than \$500,000, financial statements reviewed by a public accountant who is independent of the issuer, using professional standards and procedures for the review or standards and procedures established by the administrator by rule; or
 - (c) For offerings that, together with all other offerings of the issuer within the preceding 12-month period, have, in the aggregate, offering amounts of more than \$500,000, audited financial statements;
- (6) A description of the stated purpose and intended use of the proceeds of the offering sought by the issuer;
- (7) The offering amount, the deadline to reach the offering amount and regular updates regarding the progress of the issuer in meeting the offering amount;
- (8) The price to the public of the securities or, if the price has not been determined, the method for determining the price as long as prior to the sale each investor is provided in writing the final price and all required disclosures with a reasonable opportunity to rescind the commitment to purchase the securities; and
- (9) A description of the ownership and capital structure of the issuer, including:

(a) The terms of the securities being offered and all other classes of security of the issuer, including how those terms may be modified, and a summary of the differences between the classes of securities, including how the rights of the securities being offered may be materially limited, diluted or qualified by the rights of any other class of security of the issuer;

(b) A description of how the exercise of the rights held by the principal shareholders of the issuer could negatively impact the purchasers of the securities being offered;

(c) The name and ownership level of each existing shareholder who owns more than 20% of any class of the securities of the issuer;

(d) How the securities being offered are being valued and examples of methods for how those securities may be valued by the issuer in the future, including during subsequent corporate actions; and

(e) The risks to purchasers of the securities relating to minority ownership in the issuer and the risks associated with corporate actions, including additional issuances of shares, a sale of the issuer or of assets of the issuer and transactions with related parties; and

F. The issuer sets aside in a separate bank account all funds raised as part of the offering to be held until such time as the minimum offering amount is reached. If the minimum offering amount is not met within one year of the effective date of the offering, the issuer must return all funds to investors.

An issuer who elects to use a short-form registration statement pursuant to this subsection must comply with other requirements set forth by rule adopted or order issued under this chapter.

Notwithstanding section 16304, subsection 3, the administrator may provide by rule that a short-form registration statement filed under this subsection is immediately effective upon filing or becomes effective within some other stated period after filing, conditionally or otherwise.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.