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Date: (Filing No. S-)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to S.P. 284, L.D. 726, “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Political Action Committees Relating to Union, Business and Nonprofit Organizations”

Amend the amendment by inserting after the title the following:

'Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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

Whereas, political action committees and party committees usually engage in fund-raising in the summer and autumn months for the purpose of influencing upcoming elections; and

Whereas, it is necessary to repeal the current law as soon as possible to avoid confusion resulting from a delay in the repeal; 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,''

Amend the amendment by inserting after section 16 the following:

'Sec. 17. Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices report. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall determine the amendments to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A necessary in order to:

1. Prohibit a business entity from making contributions to candidates for election but allow a business entity to make contributions to caucus political action committees and party committees;

2. Prohibit a business entity from making any contributions to leadership political action committees; and

3. Prohibit a leadership political action committee from accepting contributions from other entities that exceed contribution limits to candidates in an election cycle.

SENATE AMENDMENT

1 The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall submit a report
2 of its findings, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on
3 Veterans and Legal Affairs by February 1, 2024. The joint standing committee may report
4 out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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

7 Amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
8 section number to read consecutively.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It also requires
11 the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, in consultation with the
12 Attorney General, to develop legislation necessary to regulate contributions made by
13 business entities to candidates and political action committees and contributions accepted
14 by leadership political action committees. The commission is directed to submit a report
15 by February 1, 2024 to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, which
16 may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st
17 Legislature.

18 **SPONSORED BY:** _____

19 **(Senator HICKMAN, C.)**

20 **COUNTY: Kennebec**