

An Act Regarding Publicly Financed Legislative Candidates in Competitive Primaries

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§7-B, ¶B, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 1, §23, is amended to read:

7-B. Timing of supplemental fund distribution. The following provisions govern the timing of supplemental fund distributions.

A. For gubernatorial candidates, any supplemental primary or general election distributions made pursuant to subsection 8-B must be made within 3 business days of certification by the commission of the required number of additional qualifying contributions, except that supplemental distributions for a general election may not be distributed until after the primary election.

B. For legislative candidates, any supplemental primary or general election distributions made pursuant to subsections 8-C and 8-D must be made within 3 business days of certification by the commission of the required number of additional qualifying contributions, except that supplemental distributions for a general election may not be distributed until after the primary election.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-C, ¶B, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 1, §25, is amended to read:

B. For a contested primary election, ~~the total distribution of revenues is \$10,000 per candidate.~~ the amount of revenues distributed is as follows:

(1) The initial distribution of revenues is \$10,000 per candidate;

(2) For each increment of 30 additional qualifying contributions a candidate collects and submits pursuant to subsection 8-E, not to exceed a total of ~~240~~ 120 additional qualifying contributions, the supplemental distribution of revenues to that candidate is \$4,285; and

(3) The total amount of revenues distributed for a contested primary election may not exceed \$27,140 per candidate.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-C, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. A candidate may receive no more than 8 supplemental distributions under this subsection.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-D, ¶B, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 1, §25, is amended to read:

B. For a contested primary election, ~~the total distribution of revenues is \$2,500 per candidate.~~ the amount of revenues distributed is as follows:

(1) The initial distribution of revenues is \$2,500 per candidate;

(2) For each increment of 10 additional qualifying contributions a candidate collects and submits pursuant to subsection 8-E, not to exceed a total of ~~80~~ 40 additional qualifying contributions, the supplemental distribution of revenues to that candidate is \$1,070; and

(3) The total amount of revenues distributed for a contested primary election may not exceed \$6,780 per candidate.

Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-D, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. A candidate may receive no more than 8 supplemental distributions under this subsection.

Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§8-E, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §33, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

Additional qualifying contributions may be submitted to the commission at any time in any amounts in accordance with the schedules in this subsection. The commission shall make supplemental distributions to candidates in the amounts and in accordance with the increments specified in subsections 8-B to 8-D. If a candidate submits additional qualifying contributions prior to a primary election in excess of the number of qualifying contributions required by subsection 3, paragraph D, the candidate may elect to have those excess qualifying contributions counted as additional qualifying contributions for purposes of receiving a supplemental distribution for a contested primary election, if applicable, or as additional qualifying contributions for purposes of receiving a supplemental distribution for a contested general election. If a candidate submits additional qualifying contributions prior to a primary election in excess of the number of qualifying contributions for which a candidate may receive a distribution, the excess qualifying contributions may, at the candidate's choosing, be counted as primary election additional qualifying contributions or general election additional qualifying contributions if the candidate has a contested general election. If a candidate who has a contested primary election submits additional qualifying contributions prior to a primary election in excess of the number of additional qualifying contributions for which a candidate may receive a supplemental distribution, the excess qualifying contributions must be counted as general election additional qualifying contributions if the candidate has a contested general election, but supplemental distributions. Distributions for a contested general election may not be distributed until after the primary election.

SUMMARY

This amendment corrects two mathematical errors in the bill and clarifies that a candidate who is in a contested primary election for the office of State Senator or State Representative and who is certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate may collect additional qualifying contributions and receive up to 4 supplemental distributions of revenue from the Maine Clean Election Fund. The amendment also clarifies that a legislative or gubernatorial certified candidate who collects additional qualifying contributions prior to the primary election may elect to use those additional qualifying contributions to obtain a supplemental distribution for a contested primary election, if applicable, or may elect to wait and use those additional qualifying contributions to obtain a supplemental distribution for a contested general election.