



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 904

H.P. 623

House of Representatives, March 12, 2015

An Act To Increase Fairness in Campaign Financing

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 SUKEFORTH of Appleton.
Cosponsored by Representative: EVANGELOS of Friendship.

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~~ \$3,000 for a
6 gubernatorial candidate including a maximum of \$1,500 for a primary election, more than
7 ~~\$350~~ \$750 for a legislative candidate including a maximum of \$375 for a primary
8 election, more than \$350 for a candidate for municipal office and beginning January 1,
9 2012 more than \$750 for a candidate for municipal office or more than \$750 in any
10 election for any other candidate. This limitation does not apply to contributions in
11 support of a candidate by that candidate or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner.
12 Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are
13 adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United
14 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest
15 amount divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the
16 amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly
17 accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide
18 for candidates.

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

21 **2. Committees; corporations; associations.** A political committee, political action
22 committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization
23 may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person
24 aggregating more than ~~\$1,500 in any election~~ \$3,000 for a gubernatorial candidate
25 including a maximum of \$1,500 for a primary election, more than ~~\$350~~ \$750 for a
26 legislative candidate including a maximum of \$375 for a primary election, more than
27 \$350 for a candidate for municipal office and beginning January 1, 2012 more than \$750
28 for a candidate for municipal office or more than \$750 in any election for any other
29 candidate. Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution limits in accordance with this
30 subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by
31 the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the
32 nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit
33 and the amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its
34 publicly accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used
35 as a guide for candidates.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 Current law limits the amount individuals, political committees, political action
38 committees and other entities may contribute to a candidate for Governor to \$1,500 in
39 any primary, general or special election. The limit for a legislative candidate is \$350 per
40 election. This bill provides that individuals, political committees, political action
41 committees and other entities may contribute a total of \$3,000 to a candidate for

1 Governor, including a maximum of \$1,500 for a primary election, and a total of \$750 to a
2 legislative candidate, including a maximum of \$375 for a primary election.