



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 856

S.P. 260

In Senate, March 8, 2011

An Act To Change the Campaign Contribution Limits

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOODALL of Sagadahoc.

Cosponsored by Senator: PLOWMAN of Penobscot, Representatives: CAREY of Lewiston, CROCKETT of Bethel, DAMON of Bangor, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, RUSSELL of Portland.

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 2009, c. 286, §2, 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 \$750 in any election for a
6 gubernatorial candidate ~~or~~, more than \$350 for a legislative candidate or more than \$750
7 in any election for any other candidate. This limitation does not apply to contributions in
8 support of a candidate by that candidate or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner.
9 Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are
10 adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United
11 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest
12 amount divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the
13 amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly
14 accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide
15 for candidates.

16 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 286, §3, is
17 further amended to read:

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

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill amends the laws governing campaign contribution limits by setting a
32 maximum contribution of \$350 for a legislative candidate and \$750 for any other
33 candidate, before adjustments for inflation.