

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act Concerning Citizens' Initiatives and Public Disclosure of Influence**

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

**Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1056-B, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 729, §8, is amended to read:

Any person not defined as a political committee who solicits and receives contributions or makes expenditures, other than by contribution to a political action committee, aggregating in excess of ~~\$1,500~~\$3,000 for the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot question must file a report with the commission. In the case of a municipal election, a copy of the same information must be filed with the clerk of that municipality.

**Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1056-B, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

**1-A. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Expenditure" includes any staff time used and any in-kind expenditures made for the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot question.

**Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1056-B, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

**4. Identification of excess contributions.** If the reported contributions exceed the reported expenditures by more than \$5,000, the person filing the report under this section shall identify the sources of the contributions that make up the difference.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill raises the amount of contributions or expenditures that triggers the requirement for a person not defined as a political committee but who solicits contributions or makes expenditures to influence a ballot question to file a report with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The bill also classifies in-kind expenditures and staff time as expenditures for purposes of reporting and requires the identification of contributions that make up a difference when contributions exceed expenditures by more than \$5,000.