



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1561

LR 196(02)

An Act To Enact the Maine Citizens' Initiatives Clean Election Act

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Projections FY 2019-20	Projections FY 2020-21
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Revenue				
General Fund	(\$3,000,000)	(\$3,000,000)	(\$3,000,000)	(\$3,000,000)
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes the Maine Citizens' Initiatives Clean Election Act within the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices and provides for annual transfers of \$3,000,000 from certain General Fund revenues to the Maine Citizens' Initiatives Clean Election Fund (the Fund) beginning in fiscal year 2017-18. The bill includes ongoing allocations to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices of \$3,000,000 beginning in fiscal year 2017-18 to allow expenditures from the Fund. In addition to the annual transfers, the Fund may also receive revenue from qualifying contributions raised by committees and voluntary contributions through a tax checkoff program. Committees that are Maine-chartered nonprofits or groups would be able to use a public financing mechanism to support or oppose a citizens' initiative ballot question. This public financing process is similar to the Maine Clean Election Act for candidates. Committees would need to raise specific amounts of qualified contributions in order to qualify for funding.