

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
S.P. 619 - L.D. 1782

**An Act Regarding Contributing to Candidates and Political Action
Committees**

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1015, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 274, §5 and affected by §13, is amended to read:

2. Contributions by party committees, ballot question committees and political action committees. Except as provided in paragraph A, a ballot question committee, a party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a political action committee and any other committee may not make contributions to a candidate.

A. A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a ballot question committee, a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus political action committee and any other political action committee may make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating no more than the amount that an individual may contribute to that candidate under subsection 1, except that the committee may not make any monetary contributions to a candidate using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a separate segregated fund committee that receives nonmonetary contributions from a business entity under section 1056-D, subsection 2, paragraph A from making monetary contributions to a candidate within the limits described in this paragraph.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1056-C, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 274, §11 and affected by §13, is amended to read:

2. Contributions by party committees, ballot question committees and political action committees. Except as provided in paragraph A, a party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a ballot question committee, a political action committee and any other committee may not make contributions to a leadership political action committee.

A. A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a ballot question committee, a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus political action committee and any other political action committee may make

contributions to a leadership political action committee aggregating no more in a calendar year than the amount that the committee may contribute to a legislative candidate in any election under section 1015, subsection 2, paragraph A, except that the committee may not make any monetary contributions to a leadership political action committee using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a separate segregated fund committee that receives nonmonetary contributions from a business entity under section 1056-D, subsection 2, paragraph A from making monetary contributions to a candidate within the limits described in this paragraph.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1056-D, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 274, §12 and affected by §13, is amended to read:

1. Contributions by individuals. An individual may not make contributions to a separate segregated fund committee aggregating more than \$5,000 in a calendar year. Beginning December 1, 2023, contribution limits under this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1056-D, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 274, §12 and affected by §13, is amended to read:

A. The corporation, membership organization, cooperative or labor or other organization that established the separate segregated fund committee, referred to in this paragraph as "the parent entity," may contribute the paid staff time of its employees and independent contractors to establish the committee and to provide fundraising and administrative services directly to the committee. The parent entity may also provide the separate segregated fund committee with the use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the parent entity.

Sec. 5. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2023.