

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

## **An Act To Promote Ethics in Campaign Fund Solicitation**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7056-A, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 498, §6, is amended to read:

**2. Political contributions.** An officer or employee in the classified service or an officer or employee from the executive branch in the unclassified service of this State may not:

A. Give or offer to give a political contribution to an individual to vote or refrain from voting or to vote for or against any candidate or measure in any partisan election;

B. Solicit, accept or receive a political contribution to vote or refrain from voting or to vote for or against any candidate or measure in any partisan election;

C. Knowingly give or hand over a political contribution to a superior of the officer or employee;

D. Knowingly solicit, accept or receive or be in any manner concerned with soliciting, accepting or receiving a political contribution from another employee or a member of another employee's immediate family who is a subordinate of the officer or employee; or

E. Knowingly solicit, accept or receive a political contribution from or give a political contribution to any person who:

(1) Has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relations with the agency in which the officer or employee is employed;

(2) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated by that agency; or

(3) Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the officer's or employee's official duties.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits an executive branch officer in the unclassified service of the State from:

1. Knowingly giving or receiving a political contribution in exchange for voting a certain way;
2. Knowingly giving a political contribution to a superior of the officer;
3. Knowingly soliciting or receiving a political contribution from a subordinate of the officer or the subordinate's family; or

4. Knowingly soliciting or receiving a political contribution from or giving a political contribution to a person who has business with the officer, is regulated by the officer or has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the officer's official duties.