

Bills proposed in the 124 Legislature to amend the Maine Clean Election Act which were not enacted

(The bills in this list have not been researched and the materials usually included are not present in this Legislative History)

LD 140 An Act To Prohibit a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate From Participating in Political Action Committee Funding

This bill prohibits Maine Clean Election Act candidates from participating in political action committees that are established to influence the election or defeat of legislative candidates or to support that candidate's effort to be elected to a legislative leadership position.

LD 205 An Act To Repeal the Maine Clean Election Act

This bill repeals the Maine Clean Election Act.

LD 219 An Act To Require Maine Clean Election Act Candidates To Use Maine Vendors

This bill requires a Maine Clean Election Act candidate to use in-state vendors when purchasing campaign-related goods and services whenever feasible.

LD 259 An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act

This bill increases the amount of seed money contributions that Maine Clean Election Act candidates may receive from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for candidates for the State Senate and from \$500 to \$750 for candidates for the State House of Representatives. The bill also allows qualifying contributions to be in the amount of \$5 or \$10.

LD 584 An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act To Equalize the Qualifying Period for All Candidates and To Increase the Number of Required Contributions for Candidates to the Legislature

This bill equalizes the qualifying period for unenrolled candidates and party candidates under the Maine Clean Election Act by requiring all participating candidates to qualify by April 15th of the election year. The bill also increases by 30% the number of qualifying contributions a Clean Election Act candidate for the State Senate or State House of Representatives must obtain.

LD 607 An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act as it Relates To Independent Expenditures

This bill extends the rebuttable presumption period for independent expenditures for general election races that include a Maine Clean Election Act candidate from 35 days before election day to from Labor Day to election day.

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LD 772 An Act To Increase Eligibility Requirements under the Maine Clean Election Act

This bill amends the Maine Clean Election Act by requiring:

1. A participating candidate who has previously run for office to have received at least 15% of the vote in the candidate's most recent campaign;
2. A participating candidate to raise the entire amount of seed money allowed in order to be certified as a participating candidate; and
3. A political communication paid for with Maine Clean Election Act funds that otherwise requires a disclosure to contain the words "Paid for with taxpayer funds under the Maine Clean Election Act.

LD 780 An Act To Increase the Amount and Number of Qualifying Contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act

This bill increases the amount of a qualifying contribution under the Maine Clean Election Act from \$5 to \$10, increases the number of qualifying contributions a gubernatorial candidate must collect from 3,250 to 5,000 and increases the number of qualifying contributions a candidate for the State House of Representatives must collect from 50 to 75. The number of qualifying contributions a candidate for State Senate must collect remains at 150.

LD 921 An Act To Eliminate Maine Clean Election Act Funding for Gubernatorial Candidates

This bill eliminates Maine Clean Election Act funding for gubernatorial candidates.

LD 948 An Act To Reduce the Cost of the Maine Clean Election Act

This bill amends the Maine Clean Election Act by:

1. Changing the amount allowed for a qualifying contribution from \$5 to from \$5 to \$10;
2. Requiring a minimum amount of qualifying contributions of \$32,500 for a candidate for Governor, \$1,500 for a candidate for State Senate and \$500 for a candidate for State House of Representatives; and
3. Allowing a participating candidate to raise between September 1st and October 15th of the election year \$2,000 for a candidate for State Senate and \$1,000 for a

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candidate for State House of Representatives in amounts up to \$50 per donor who are registered voters of the candidate's district.

LD 949 An Act To Reduce the Number of Qualifying Contributions Required for Special Elections under the Maine Clean Election Act

This bill reduces the amount of qualifying contributions required under the Maine Clean Election Act for special election candidates for the State Senate and the State House of Representatives to 75 contributions from Registered voters for the Senate candidate and 25 contributions from registered voters for the House of Representatives candidate.

LD 1189 An Act To Simplify and Improve the Maine Clean Election Laws

This bill amends the Maine Clean Election Act and combines seedmoney and qualifying checks into one composite qualifying system. Qualifying contributions are defined as any amount of \$5 to \$100 payable to the candidate or the campaign. To qualify, the candidate must raise contributions in numbers and amounts as follows:

1. For a gubernatorial candidate, a minimum of 3,250 contributors who contribute a total amount of \$32,500;
2. For a candidate for the State Senate, a minimum of 150 contributors who contribute a total amount of \$1,500; and
3. For a candidate for the House of Representatives, a minimum of 50 contributors who contribute a total amount of \$500.

The number of required contributors remains the same as in present law, but the minimum amount of money required is doubled from \$5 per contributor to what would be an average of \$10 if only the minimum number of contributors were obtained. Each \$5 contribution still counts and contributions up to \$100 are acceptable.

Instead of submitting contributions to the commission, the candidates will submit only the acknowledgement signed by each contributor as evidence of the payment and support. Candidates will retain and use for campaign purposes all amounts collected. Because seed money is abolished and blended into the system for qualifying contributions, all private financial support must come in the form of qualifying contributions from voters within the candidate's own district. Distributions from the Maine Clean Election Fund are reduced by 1/2 of the qualifying Contributions collected. The qualifying period for any candidate is amended to start whenever the candidate files a declaration of intent. The qualifying period for an unenrolled candidate continues to end on June 2nd of each election year. The corresponding date for a party candidate remains at April 15th. The bill makes clear that no revenue from the Maine Clean Election Fund may be pledged or applied to the collection of qualifying contributions.

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The bill also adds a private funding option for candidates. Before April 15th of an election year, a candidate whose campaign is supported by private contributions may elect to be covered by the matching fund protections of the Maine Clean Election Act if the candidate agrees to limit and does limit campaign contributions and expenditures to the amount that would be authorized for distribution to the candidate if the candidate were qualified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate. A candidate making such an election is entitled to public matching funds as if the candidate had qualified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

LD 1247 An Act To Prohibit Maine Clean Election Act Candidates from Raising Private Campaign Funds

This bill prohibits Maine Clean Election Act candidates from establishing or participating in political action committees to influence the election or defeat of legislative candidates or to support that candidate's effort to be elected to a legislative leadership position.

LD 1250 An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act Relating to Seed Money

This bill increases the seed money contribution a participating candidate may receive from \$100 to \$250 per individual. It also increases the amount of seed money that can be raised by a candidate for the State Senate from \$1,500 to \$3,000 and from \$500 to \$1,000 for a candidate for the State House of Representatives. The bill also directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to amend its rules to decrease by \$1,500 the amount of seed money a candidate for the State Senate may receive as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and to decrease by \$500 the amount of seed money a candidate for the State House of Representatives may receive as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

LD 1420 An Act To Alter the Distribution of Maine Clean Election Act Funding to Gubernatorial Candidates

This bill does the following.

1. It reduces from 3,250 to 750 the number of qualifying contributions required for a gubernatorial candidate to be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.
2. It provides that a Maine Clean Election Act gubernatorial candidate may continue to collect \$5 contributions from registered voters in the State.
3. It allows a voter who provides a \$5 qualifying contribution to a gubernatorial candidate in a contested primary to provide an additional \$5 contribution to that candidate after certification.

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4. It provides that each \$5 qualifying contribution and each \$5 additional contribution must be matched by a distribution of \$55 from the Maine Clean Election Fund.

5. It increases the distribution limits for gubernatorial primary elections from \$200,000 to \$350,000 and for gubernatorial general elections from \$600,000 to \$750,000.