

Bills proposed in the 123rd Legislature to amend the Maine Clean Election Act which were not enacted

(Except for LD 1779 the bills in this list have not been researched and the materials usually included are not present in this Legislative History)

LD Number	Title of Act	Disposition
LD 106	An Act To Prohibit a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate from Participating in Political Action Committee Funding	ONTP

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 396	An Act To Provide Additional Funding for the Maine Clean Election	ONTP
--------	---	------

This bill amends the provision of the Maine Clean Election Act that lists the sources of revenue for the Maine Clean Election Fund. It adds to the sources of revenue, money reimbursed to the fund for independent expenditures made by PAC supporting a participating candidate who is a principal officer, primary fundraiser, or decision maker of that PAC. This bill requires that a participating candidate who is a principal officer, primary fundraiser or decision maker in a PAC to disclose that information and any independent expenditures on forms provided by the commission.

LD 1233	An Act To Amend Requirements for Participation of Gubernatorial Candidates under the Maine Clean Election Act	ONTP
---------	---	------

Under current law, in order to qualify under the Maine Clean Election Act, a participating candidate for Governor must obtain qualifying contributions from at least 2,500 verified registered voters. This bill increases the number of necessary qualifying contributions to 3,500. In addition, this bill requires that a participating candidate for Governor raise seed money contributions totaling at least \$10,000. The proposals made by this bill were considered in a larger comprehensive bill regarding campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1316	An Act To Define Campaign Communications Requiring Matching Clean Election Funding	ONTP
---------	--	------

This bill requires matching funds be disbursed to a candidate certified under the Maine Clean Election Act in the amount of the cost of a political communication that contains the name or photograph of the candidate's opponent.

LD 1317	An Act To Require a Minimum Number of Votes in a Primary To Continue To Qualify as a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate	ONTP
---------	---	------

This bill provides that in order to continue to be a certified candidate for State Senator or State Representative under the Maine Clean Election Act, such a certified candidate who participates in a primary election must receive at least 25 votes in that primary election. The proposal made by this bill was considered with a comprehensive bill on campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1499 An Act To Improve the Maine Clean Election Act

ONTP

This bill makes the following changes to the Maine Clean Election Act.

1. It increases the number of qualifying contributions that a candidate for the State Senate must collect from 150 to 300.
2. It prohibits the use of revenues that a candidate receives from the Maine Clean Election Fund from being used for meals or for maintenance of motor vehicles.
3. It permits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate to accept the offer of an organization that is independent of the candidate and the candidate's committee to send a mailing.

The proposals in this bill were considered.

LD 1547 An Act To Prohibit a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate from
Recruiting a Primary Opponent

ONTP

This bill prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate or a candidate who is seeking to become a Maine Clean Election Act candidate from directly or indirectly recruiting or attempting to recruit an opposing candidate in a primary election. The proposal in this bill was considered as part of a larger comprehensive bill addressing campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1679 An Act To Change and Clarify the Maine Clean Election Laws

ONTP

This bill extends the period that certain expenditures under the Maine Clean Election Act are deemed independent expenditures from 21 days to 60 days prior to an election. This bill also repeals the provision in the Maine Clean Election Act that gives a longer qualifying period to unenrolled candidates. It also adds a provision to the terms of participation of the Maine Clean Election Act requiring a candidate to maintain the same enrollment status the candidate held at the time of the preceding general election prior to seeking certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate. The bill directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to adopt rules that will: permit a candidate to reuse campaign signs from a prior election without updating disclaimers; establish an equitable formula for the allowance of travel expenses based on the square miles in a candidate's legislative district; and permit primary funds to be spent during a general election if a candidate was unopposed in the primary. Finally, this bill directs the commission to issue a report that suggests a statutory mechanism for narrowing to one the number of unenrolled gubernatorial candidates that may receive Maine Clean Election Act funds.

This bill amends the Maine Clean Election Act by combining seed money and qualifying contributions into one qualifying system. Rather than seed money, a candidate would be able to spend qualifying contributions prior to certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate. Qualifying contributions, which may be made by either cash or money order under this bill, are defined as any amount between \$5 and \$40 payable to the candidate or the campaign and must come from the candidate's district. To be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate, the candidate must raise qualifying contributions in numbers and amounts as follows:

Minimum number of contributors Total sum required to qualify

For House 50 \$500

For Senate 150 \$1,500

For Governor 2,500 \$25,000

The number of required contributors remains the same as in present law, but the minimum amount of money required is doubled from \$5 per check to what would be an average of \$10 if only the minimum number were obtained. Each \$5 contribution still counts and contributions up to \$40 are acceptable. Instead of turning checks in to the commission, this bill provides that candidates submit an acknowledgment receipt signed by each contributor as evidence of the payment and support.

Under this bill, initial distributions from the Maine Clean Election Fund to a candidate certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate are reduced by one-half of the qualifying contributions collected. Under this bill, the qualifying period would begin on November 1st of the year prior to an election year for candidates for all offices.

Current law provides that November 1st is the beginning of the qualifying period for just gubernatorial candidates.

The bill repeals a provision that presently allows an unenrolled candidate to receive a distribution equal to a primary or general election campaign distributions in uncontested races if the candidate qualifies before April 15th.

For unenrolled candidates, distributions are set at 40% of those available to a party candidate unless the unenrolled candidate obtains a number of contributors equal to 160% of those required for a party candidate. The total dollar sum of contributions required by current law remains the same for party and for unenrolled candidates under this bill.

This bill prohibits a registered voter from making a qualifying contribution to more than one candidate for the same office. This bill removes a provision that permits a candidate to pay the fee for money orders to be used as qualifying contributions since it provides for the authorization of cash transactions for qualifying contributions. The bill provides

that no revenue from the Maine Clean Election Fund may be pledged or applied to the collection of qualifying contributions.

This bill expands from 21 days to 42 days the period before an election in which a paid communication is deemed to be an independent expenditure if it clearly identifies a candidate on the ballot.

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 request that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices provide matching fund protections of the Maine Clean Election Act if the candidate agrees to limit and does, in fact, 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 in the same manner as a qualified Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

This bill was considered with a larger comprehensive bill that addressed campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1682 An Act To Improve Maine's Clean Election Law

ONTP

This bill requires that:

1. A candidate for Governor must raise at least \$35,000 in seed money contributions to qualify as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate;
2. A candidate for the state Senate must raise at least \$1,000 in seed money contributions to qualify as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate; and
3. A candidate for the state House of Representatives must raise at least \$350 in seed money contributions to qualify as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

This bill was considered with a larger comprehensive bill that addressed campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1724 An Act To Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act

ONTP

This bill amends the Maine Clean Election Act by increasing the number of qualifying contributions required of a gubernatorial candidate for certification from 2,500 to 3,250 and requiring that candidate to raise at least \$15,000 in seed money. The bill amends the definition of a qualifying contribution to state that the \$5 donation may be made to only one candidate seeking the gubernatorial election or one candidate in a particular legislative election. It extends the authority to certify candidates as Maine Clean Election Act candidates to the executive director of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. This bill adds to the requirements for certification and provides for circumstances under which the commission or its executive director may revoke certification of a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and require the return of Maine

Clean Election Act funds. Finally, this bill removes language designating rules adopted under the Maine Clean Election Act as major substantive rules.

The proposals in this bill were considered with a large comprehensive bill addressing campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1729 An Act To Allow Contributors to Candidates Financed by the Maine Clean Election Fund To Submit Qualifying Contributions Online ONTP

This bill allows a qualifying contribution under the Maine Clean Election Act to be paid by a credit card over the Internet. The proposal in this bill was considered with a large comprehensive bill addressing campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1740 An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act ONTP

This bill increases the contribution limits in current law for legislative and gubernatorial candidates. Under this bill, individuals may make contributions aggregating up to \$1,000 for a gubernatorial candidate, \$750 to a candidate for the state Senate and \$500 to a candidate for the state House of Representatives. This bill specifies that seed money contributions for a candidate seeking certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate must come from voters within the candidate's voting district and that a minimum amount must be collected in order to become certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

The bill also changes current law to exclude the distribution of matching funds in primary elections. Finally, this bill includes seed money raised by a Maine Clean Election Act candidate in the formula used to determine whether a candidate may receive matching funds.

The proposals in this bill were considered with a large comprehensive bill addressing campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1779 An Act To Govern Publicly Funded Advertising during Campaigns

DIED BETWEEN HOUSES

This bill prohibits any candidate for public office from appearing in any television, radio or newspaper advertisement that is paid for by public funds, other than with disbursements from the Maine Clean Election Fund, during the 6 months preceding a primary or general election in which he or she is a candidate.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-246)

This amendment, which was not adopted, replaces the bill. The amendment prohibits a candidate from appearing in radio, television or newspaper advertisements broadcast or published from the time that candidate becomes a candidate up to the election that are paid for, in any amount, by a direct appropriation of state funds.

This prohibition does not apply to campaign advertisements paid for by disbursements from the Maine Clean Election Fund.