**94-270**

**COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES**

Maine Administrative Procedure Act

2014-2015 Regulatory Agenda

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **94-270**

AGENCY NAME: **Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices**

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**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None

**2014-2015 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY**:

**CHAPTER 1**: Procedures

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1 M.R.S.A. §1003(1)

PURPOSE: Ch. 1 describes the nature and operation of the Commission and establishes procedures by which its actions will be governed. The chapter includes provisions on meetings of the Commission, the procedures by which the Commission reviews disclosure reports and initiates investigations, reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures, communications by Commission members about matters under investigation, requirements for candidates to file accelerated reports, reporting requirements for independent expenditures, and lobbyist contributions to Legislators.

The Commission may amend its rules to adjust the procedures of the Commission in reviewing campaign finance reports filed with the Commission, define reasonable efforts that must be undertaken by candidates and political committees in obtaining employment information of contributors, interpret “contribution” to include the use of a vehicle for campaigning by an official who has been provided the vehicle to conduct official duties, permit candidates and committees to report in the aggregate purchases of television and radio advertising time made by a media buyer; provide greater flexibility to *Maine Clean Election Act* candidates in making reimbursements for campaign purchases; and change the deadline time for filing independent expenditure reports from 5:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

EXPECTED SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: By March 2015.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Political candidates, political action committees, political party committees, ballot question committees, contributors to campaigns, lobbyists, and Legislators.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: None expected.