**94-270**

**COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES**

Maine Administrative Procedure Act

2020-2021 Regulatory Agenda

November 17, 2020

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

**2020-2021 RULEMAKING ACTIVITY**:

**CHAPTER 1: Procedures**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1 M.R.S.A. §1003(1); 1 M.R.S.A. §1016-G(4); 5 M.R.S.A. §19(5); 21-A M.R.S.A. §1017(6); 21-A M.R.S.A. §1019-B.

PURPOSE: Chapter 1 describes the nature and operation of the Commission and establishes procedures by which its actions will be governed. These rules include provisions on legislative ethics complaints, campaign finance reporting, lobbyist disclosure procedures, investigations by the Commission, accelerated reporting schedules, independent expenditures, ballot question campaign activity by persons other than PACs, and lobbyist contributions to Legislators.

The Commission does not anticipate amending Chapter 1 of its rules during 2020-2021.

EXPECTED SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: N/A.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Prospective candidates for state office and political committees that are required to file campaign finance reports with the Commission; lobbyists; legislators and other officials required to file annual statements disclosing their sources of income; and the general public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: None expected.

**CHAPTER 3: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1 M.R.S. §1003; 21-A M.R.S. §1126

PURPOSE: Chapter 3 establishes procedures to implement the *Maine Clean Election Act* (MCEA), which is Title 21-A, Chapter 14 of the *Maine Revised Statutes*. Under this law, candidates for Governor and the Legislature may qualify to receive public funds for their political campaigns. To be eligible for MCEA funding, candidates must collect a minimum number of qualifying contributions from registered voters in the electoral division for the office sought by the candidate.

The Commission may amend its rule to clarify whether a candidate who has accepted traditional campaign contributions that do not comply with seed money restrictions may qualify for *Maine Clean Election Act* funding if they run for a different political office.

EXPECTED SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: by January 2021.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Prospective candidates for the office of Governor, State Senator, or State Representative, and the general public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: None expected.