**94-270**

**COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES**

Maine Administrative Procedure Act

2018-2019 Regulatory Agenda

January 11, 2019

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

**2018-2019 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**CHAPTER 1**: Procedures

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1 M.R.S. §1003(1); 1 M.R.S. §1016-G(4); 5 M.R.S. §19(5); 21-A M.R.S. §1017(6); 21-A M.R.S. §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 may amend its rule clarifying the procedures by which candidates and political committees disclose debts owed for campaign goods and services in campaign finance reports. The Commission may also amend its rules to require state officials who file annual statements of the sources of their personal income to include a category or short description when they have received gifts or others have paid for travel or accommodations.

EXPECTED SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: By March 2019.

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 ch. 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 does not anticipate amending ch. 3 of its rules during 2018- 2019.

EXPECTED SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: N/A.

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

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: None expected.