An Act To Establish Semi-open Primary Elections To Allow Unenrolled Voters To Participate

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 1, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §111, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2005, c. 387, §1, is further amended to read:

5. Enrollment. The person must be enrolled in a party in that municipality to vote at that party's caucus, or convention or primary election, unless otherwise permitted by the party pursuant to section 340.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §340, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 423, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §341 is enacted to read:

§341. Unenrolled voter participation in primary elections allowed

A registered voter not enrolled in a political party may participate, subject to the restrictions of section 144, in a party's primary election without enrolling in that political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election. The Secretary of State shall establish procedures to ensure that each voter voting in a party's primary election is offered a ballot for that primary election.

SUMMARY

This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election without having to enroll in a political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election.