

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

No. 231

S.P. 99

In Senate, January 27, 2021

An Act To Establish Open Primaries

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 25, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MAXMIN of Lincoln. Cosponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren and Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec, Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, HEPLER of Woolwich, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, RISEMAN of Harrison, WARREN of Scarborough.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
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2	Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §111, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2005, c. 387, §1, is further
3	amended to read:
4	5. Enrollment. The person must be enrolled in a party in that municipality to vote at
5	that party's caucus, or convention or primary election, unless otherwise permitted by the
6	party pursuant to section 340.
7	Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §340, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 423, §3, is repealed.
8	Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §341 is enacted to read:
9	§341. Unenrolled voter participation in primary elections allowed
10	A registered voter not enrolled in a political party may participate, subject to the
11	restrictions of section 144, in a party's primary election without enrolling in that political
12	party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election. The Secretary
13	of State shall establish procedures to ensure that each voter voting in a party's primary
14	election is offered a ballot for that primary election.
15	Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §441, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 445, §4, is repealed.
16	Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §441, sub-§3 is enacted to read:
17	3. Unenrolled voter participation in presidential primary elections allowed. A
18	registered voter not enrolled in a political party may participate, subject to the restrictions
19	of section 144, in a party's presidential primary election without enrolling in that political
20	party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's presidential primary election. The
21	Secretary of State shall establish procedures to ensure that each voter voting in a party's
22	presidential primary election is offered a ballot for that primary election.
23	SUMMARY
24	This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election, including a
25	presidential primary election, without having to enroll in a political party. An unenrolled
26	voter may vote in only one party's primary election.