**An Act To Let the Citizens of the State Choose Their State Auditor**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §241, first ¶,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 16, §1, is further amended to read:

The State Auditor is the head of the Office of the State Auditor. The State Auditor must be a certified public accountant or a college graduate with not less than 6 years of experience as a professional accountant or auditor, including not less than 5 years of auditing experience, of which not less than 4 years must have been in a supervisory capacity. ~~The~~ Until 2024, the State Auditor must be elected by the Legislature by a joint ballot of the Senators and Representatives in convention and holds office for a term of 4 years or until a successor is elected and qualified. Beginning in 2024, the State Auditor is elected every 4 years in the same manner as is the Governor. If a vacancy occurs, the Governor shall appoint a successor who is subject to confirmation in the same manner as Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court. The State Auditor shall exercise ~~such~~ the powers and perform ~~such~~ the duties ~~as are~~ set forth in this chapter. ~~In case the office of State~~ ~~Auditor becomes vacant during a period when the Legislature is not in session, the~~ ~~appointment of a person to fill such vacancy must be made immediately by the President~~ ~~of the Senate or if that office is vacant, by the Speaker of the House, and the person~~ ~~appointed holds that office until such time as the Legislature meets in regular or special~~ ~~session, and either confirm the appointment of the person or chooses another person to fill~~ ~~the office during the unexpired term.~~

**SUMMARY**

This bill provides for the popular election of the State Auditor every 4 years beginning in 2024.