



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 749

H.P. 491

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Ensure That the Will of the Voters Is Reflected in Interim
Appointments of United States Senators**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BOYER of Poland.
Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and
Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, DRINKWATER of Milford, FROST of Belgrade,
HENDERSON of Rumford, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, WARREN of Scarborough,
Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §391, sub-§1**, as corrected by RR 2019, c. 2, Pt. B, §50, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Interim appointment.** Within a reasonable time after the vacancy occurs, the
5 Governor shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until that person's successor
6 is elected and qualified. If the person who vacated the office was enrolled in a political
7 party at the time of that person's last election to that office, the qualified person appointed
8 to fill the vacancy must have been enrolled in that party at the time of the most recent
9 election and at the time the office was vacated and must be enrolled in that party at the time
10 the qualified person is appointed. If the person who vacated the office was not enrolled in
11 a political party at the time of that person's last election to that office, the qualified person
12 appointed to fill the vacancy may not have been enrolled in a political party at the time of
13 the most recent election and at the time the office was vacated and may not be enrolled in
14 a political party at the time the qualified person is appointed.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill provides that if there is a vacancy in the office of United States Senator and
17 the person who vacated the office was enrolled in a political party at the time of that
18 person's last election to that office, the qualified person appointed to fill the vacancy must
19 have been enrolled in that party at the time of the most recent election and at the time the
20 office was vacated and must be enrolled in that party at the time the qualified person is
21 appointed. If the person who vacated the office was not enrolled in a political party at the
22 time of that person's last election to that office, the qualified person appointed to fill the
23 vacancy may not have been enrolled in a political party at the time of the most recent
24 election and at the time the office was vacated and may not be enrolled in a political party
25 at the time the qualified person is appointed.