



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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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**

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

  
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.

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

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

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

## SUMMARY

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