127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document   **No. 720**

H.P. 496   House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

An Act To Establish an Open Primary System in the State

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

R(t B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Representative RYKERSON of Kittery and
Representatives: CHIPMAN of Portland, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, McCREIGHT of
Harpswell.

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

2   **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §341** is enacted to read:

3   **§341. Common primary ballot**

4   The names of all candidates for Governor, United States Senator and Representative
5   to Congress, including candidates enrolled in a party and unenrolled candidates, must
6   appear on the same primary ballot. Notwithstanding sections 111, 144 and 340, all
7   voters, regardless of enrollment status, vote using identical ballots for candidates for these
8   offices. Only the names of the 2 candidates who receive the most votes at the primary
9   election for these offices may appear on the ballot for the general election.

10   **SUMMARY**

11   This bill provides that the names of all candidates for Governor, United States
12   Senator and Representative to Congress, including candidates enrolled in a party and
13   unenrolled candidates, must appear on the same primary ballot. All voters, regardless of
14   enrollment status, vote using identical ballots for candidates for these offices. Only the
15   names of the 2 candidates who receive the most votes at the primary election for these
16   offices appear on the ballot for the general election.