

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 211

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H.P. 174

House of Representatives, January 22, 2019

**An Act To Open Maine's Primaries and Permit Unenrolled Voters  
To Cast Ballots in Primary Elections**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ACKLEY of Monmouth.  
Cosponsored by Senator CHENETTE of York and  
Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, MAREAN of  
Hollis, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, McDONALD of Stonington, PLUECKER of Warren,  
RISEMAN of Harrison, Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec.

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

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7 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §340**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 423, §3, is repealed.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 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election without having to  
17 enroll in a political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary  
18 election.