

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

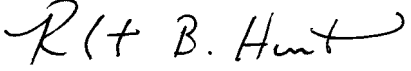
No. 148

H.P. 81

House of Representatives, January 14, 2025

**An Act to Provide for the Statewide Popular Election of the State
Auditor**

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, CAMPBELL of Orrington, LIBBY
of Auburn, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of
Carmel, TUELL of East Machias.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §241**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 44, §3, is further amended to read:

3 **§241. State Auditor; salary**

4 The State Auditor is the head of the Office of the State Auditor. The State Auditor must
5 be a certified public accountant or a college graduate with not less than 6 years of
6 experience as a professional accountant or auditor, including not less than 5 years of
7 auditing experience, of which not less than 4 years must have been in a supervisory
8 capacity. ~~The~~ Until 2028, the State Auditor must be elected by the Legislature by a joint
9 ballot of the Senators and Representatives in convention and holds office for a term of 4
10 years or until a successor is elected and qualified. Beginning in 2028, the State Auditor is
11 elected every 4 years in the same manner as is the Governor. If a vacancy occurs, the
12 Governor shall appoint a successor who is subject to confirmation in the same manner as
13 Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court. The State Auditor shall exercise ~~such~~ the powers
14 and perform ~~such~~ the duties ~~as are~~ set forth in this chapter. ~~In~~ Until 2028, in case the office
15 of State Auditor becomes vacant during a period when the Legislature is not in session, the
16 appointment of a person to fill such vacancy must be made immediately by the President
17 of the Senate or if that office is vacant, by the Speaker of the House, and the person
18 appointed holds that office until such time as the Legislature meets in regular or special
19 session, and either confirm the appointment of the person or chooses another person to fill
20 the office during the unexpired term.

21 If a person elected to the office of State Auditor is not qualified as, or has not
22 successfully completed or passed the examination for, a certified public accountant,
23 certified information systems auditor or certified internal auditor at the time of election and
24 fails to become so qualified within 9 months of being sworn into office, as required by
25 section 242, that person may no longer serve as State Auditor ~~and is ineligible for reelection~~
26 ~~by the same Legislature~~ and the office of State Auditor is deemed vacant.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill provides for the statewide popular election of the State Auditor every 4 years
29 beginning in 2028.