

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

July 2022

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LD 231 An Act To Establish Open Primaries

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Beginning January 1, 2024, Public Law 2021, chapter 750 allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a single party's primary election, including a party's presidential primary election, without having to enroll in that political party. An unenrolled voter may not vote in a party's primary election if that voter withdrew from a party within the 15 days prior to the primary election, however, unless the voter changed the voter's voting residence at the same time that the voter withdrew from a party.

An election clerk must record on the incoming voting list and on the list of absentee voters which party's primary ballot, if any, is issued to an unenrolled voter during a primary election. After the election, this information must be entered in the central voter registration system. In addition, an unenrolled voter who participates in a party's primary election must be considered a member of the party for purposes of allocating delegates to the party's state convention and to the party's national presidential nominating convention.

LD 542 An Act To Establish the Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 680 establishes the Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Veterans' Services.

LD 619 An Act Regarding Eligibility for Burial in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 593 provides the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services with the authority to allow burial in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System of the remains of a person, such as the Honorable John L. Tuttle, Jr., who passed away on January 27, 2022, and any spouse or minor child of that person, who died while a member or former member of the National Guard; a member or former member of the state military forces or the Reserve Components of the United States Armed Forces; or a member of a reserve officer training corps of the United States Armed Forces.

Public Law 2021, chapter 593 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2022.