

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

ROS

L.D. 1741

Date: 2/27/26

(Filing No. H-818)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1159, L.D. 1741, "An Act Regarding County Law Enforcement Administration and Rural Law Enforcement"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Regarding Vacancies in the Office of Sheriff'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §371-B, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §6 and affected by §11, is amended to read:

2. Filling vacancies. Vacancies in the office of sheriff caused by death, resignation, removal from the county, permanent incapacity or any other reason must be filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine. In the case of a vacancy in the term of a sheriff who was nominated by primary election before the general election, the sheriff appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy until a successor is chosen at election must be enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant. In making the appointment, the Governor shall choose from any recommendations submitted to the Governor by the county committee of the political party from which the appointment is made. If the county committee submits one or more recommendations to the Governor, the chief deputy exercising the same rights and powers of the sheriff in the case of a vacancy in the office of sheriff pursuant to section 385, subsection 1 must be included for consideration for appointment as sheriff if the chief deputy is enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §381, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

A. The failure decision of a sheriff to not reappoint a deputy, except for appointment at the end of the probationary period, is subject to the procedures and standards for dismissal of an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

**Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §385, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

**1. Chief deputy's powers.** If the office of sheriff becomes vacant because of death, resignation or otherwise, the chief deputy ~~shall have~~ has and may exercise the same rights and powers and ~~be is~~ subject to the same duties and liabilities as a sheriff until the vacancy in the office of sheriff is filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine ~~and the new sheriff has qualified under law.~~

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. The amendment provides that, in the case of a vacancy in the office of sheriff, if the county political committee submits one or more recommendations to the Governor for consideration for appointment as sheriff, the chief deputy exercising the same rights and powers of the sheriff during the vacancy of the office of sheriff must be included for consideration for appointment as sheriff if the chief deputy is enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant. It also specifies that if the office of sheriff becomes vacant because of death, resignation or otherwise, the chief deputy has and may exercise the same rights and powers and is subject to the same duties and liabilities as a sheriff until the vacancy in the office of sheriff is filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**