



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative David Boyer

Presenting L.D. 1117, An Act to Ensure That the Will of the Voters Is Reflected in Interim Appointments of United States Senators Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and distinguished members of the Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Representative David Boyer and I am proud to present L.D. 1117 An Act to Ensure That the Will of the Voters Is Reflected in Interim Appointments of United States Senators.

My bill is short and sweet, so my testimony will be too. Currently, in the event of an unexpected vacancy of a sitting United States Senator, the Governor has the power to appoint a replacement to fulfil the remainder of the term.

My legislation would simply require the Governor to appoint a replacement from the same political party as the Senator that vacated their seat.

Imagine if Senator Collins decided to run for President and give up her Senate seat and then Governor Mills appointed a Democrat to replace her. Republicans would be up in arms!

Imagine if Senator King decided to run for President and give up his senate seat and then Governor Mills replaced him with a Republican- Democrats and Independents would be justifiably angry!

Since Maine does not hold elections in the event of a Senator's vacancy, this legislative change is a step in the right direction for upholding the will of voters and good governance.

Both Democratic and Republican states have similar laws on the books including Arizona, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming.

I appreciate the committee's time and consideration. Thank you.