

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 832**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Sean Garballey*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to uniformity of ballots in polling places.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

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By Representative Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 832) of Sean Garballey relative to uniformity of ballots in polling places. Election Laws.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4689 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to uniformity of ballots in polling places.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 44 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3           Ballots for an election shall be uniform in size, material and content for all voters,  
4 regardless of whether the ballot is voted on a ballot-marking device or directly on a paper ballot;  
5 provided, however, the state secretary may provide ballots that are not uniform when necessary  
6 to: (i) comply with federal law; (ii) accommodate voting or tabulating; or (iii) accommodate  
7 hand count tabulation methods. Ballots shall be tabulated directly from the voter-marked  
8 selections and not from a barcode, QR code or other representation not marked by the voter,  
9 either on a ballot-marking device or directly on paper.