

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAWS
2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY

Bill Number: H.880

Title: An Act relative to city and town clerks mailing of early voting ballots

Sponsor(s): Rep. Tommy Vitolo

Hearing Date: June 17, 2025

Reporting Deadline: 60 days from hearing date

Prior History: New File

CURRENT LAW: Paragraph (10) of subsection (a) of section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws states that: (10) Early voting ballots authorized pursuant to this section shall be mailed by the appropriate local election officials as soon as such materials are available. The mailing of an early voting ballot shall include: (i) instructions for early voting; (ii) instructions for completing the ballot; (iii) an inner envelope where the ballot shall be placed after voting that contains an affidavit of compliance to be filled out by the voter and notice of the penalties under section 26 of chapter 56; and (iv) an outer envelope that is pre-addressed to the local election official with postage guaranteed. To the extent feasible, the state secretary shall include on the outer envelope a system that generates a postmark for determining the date upon which the envelope was mailed.

SUMMARY: This legislation amends Paragraph (10) of subsection (a) of section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as updated by section 10 of chapter 92 of the acts of 2022, to require that early voting ballots be mailed or made available for in-person pickup no more than 30 calendar days before a preliminary, primary, or election. It also amends Section 91B to apply the same 30-day limit to mailing or delivering absentee ballots, including those delivered in person to voters in designated health care facilities. Such facilities must be officially designated for supervised absentee voting at least 28 days before an election.