

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAWS**  
**2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) BILL SUMMARY**

**Bill Number:** H.872

**Title:** An Act further regulating the recall of elected officials in the town of Pembroke

**Sponsor(s):** Rep. Kenneth Sweezy (Duxbury)

**Hearing Date:** May 6, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** July 5, 2025

**Prior History:**  
2023-24 (H.3983): Rep. Josh Cutler; Ordered to a House Study

**Similar Matters:** N/A

**CURRENT LAW:** *Chapter 356 of the Acts of 1983*

This act allows for the recall of elected officials in Pembroke through a petition process. A recall petition can be initiated by 150 qualified voters, and the petition must be returned within 14 days with signatures from at least 20% of the electorate. Once certified, the select board must schedule a recall election, which must occur within a set timeframe, and if the officer is not reelected, they are removed from office.

**SUMMARY:**

This bill amends Chapter 356 of the Acts of 1983 by extending the time frame for submitting a recall petition from 14 to 30 days. It reduces the number of signatures required to initiate the petition from 20% to 10% of the electorate. Once the petition is certified by the town clerk, the select board must immediately notify the officer being recalled. If the officer does not resign within five days after receiving the notice, the select board must schedule the recall election at the next scheduled town election, provided that the election is at least 64 days after the officer's resignation or refusal to resign. The bill also removes the 40% voter turnout requirement for recall elections, so a majority of those voting on the recall will suffice for a decision. This Act takes effect immediately upon passage.