

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

**Bill Number:** H.858

**Title:** *An Act providing disclosure of political phone calls*

**Sponsor(s):** Rep. James Murphy (*Weymouth*)

**Hearing Date:** July 8, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** September 6, 2025

**Prior History:** 2023-24 (H.709); Ordered to study  
2021-22 (H.821); Ordered to study  
2019-20 (H.696); Ordered to study

**Similar Matters:** N/A

**CURRENT LAW:**

*M.G.L. c. 55 § 1 – Definitions*

**SUMMARY:**

This bill defines and regulates push-polling in political campaigns. It distinguishes bona fide survey and opinion research, which gathers public opinion without trying to influence behavior, from push-polling, which involves misleading phone calls intended to sway voters while pretending to be neutral surveys.

The bill requires those conducting push-polls to disclose that the call is a paid political advertisement, name the sponsoring organization and candidate, and provide a valid contact number. Disclosures must be clear, accurate, and repeated upon request. Violations are subject to fines of up to \$1,000.