

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

Bill Number: H.831

Title: An Act relative to age requirements in local elections

Sponsor(s): Rep. Sean Garballey

Hearing Date: May 6, 2025

Reporting Deadline: July 5, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H.686): Ordered to a House Study

2021-22 (H.791): Ordered to a House Study

2019-20 (H.657): Ordered to a House Study

2017-2018 (H.2902): Ordered to a House Study

CURRENT LAW:

Section 1. Every citizen eighteen years of age or older, not being a person under guardianship or incarcerated in a correctional facility due to a felony conviction, and not being temporarily or permanently disqualified by law because of corrupt practices in respect to elections, who is a resident in the city or town where he claims the right to vote at the time he registers, and who has complied with the requirements of this chapter, may have his name entered on the list of voters in such city or town, and may vote therein in any such election, or except insofar as restricted in any town in which a representative town meeting form of government has been established, in any meeting held for the transaction of town affairs. Notwithstanding any special law to the contrary, every such citizen who resides within the boundaries of any district, as defined in section one A of chapter forty-one, may vote for district officers and in any district meeting thereof, and no other person may so vote. A person otherwise qualified to vote for national or state officers shall not, by reason of a change of residence within the commonwealth, be disqualified from voting for such national or state officers in the city or town from which he has removed his residence until the expiration of 6 months from such removal.

SUMMARY:

Every citizen sixteen years of age or older who is a resident in the city or town where he or she claims the right to vote at the time he or she registers, and who has complied with the requirements of this chapter, may have his or her name entered on the list of voters in such city or town and may vote therein in any election for officers in such city or town.