

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

Bill Number: H.824

Title: *An Act relative to political designations*

Sponsor(s): Rep. Paul Donato (*Medford*)

Hearing Date: June 17, 2025

Reporting Deadline: August 16, 2025

Prior History: 2023-24 (H.682) Ordered to study

Similar Matters: N/A

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 50 § 1 – Definitions:

Defines a "political designation" as a label of up to three words that a candidate not running under a recognized political party may use on the ballot, and also as the label used by voters wishing to form or join such a designation. It outlines the process for establishing a political designation, requiring a petition signed by at least 50 registered voters and certified by local clerks, while prohibiting the use of "Independent" as a designation.

SUMMARY:

This bill raises the number of required signatures for establishing a new political designation from 50 to 500. Additionally, if, after two years from the date the political designation is approved, there are fewer than one quarter of one percent of the total number of registered voters enrolled in the designation, voters enrolled in the designation are to be registered as “unenrolled”.