

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

<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>H.808</b>
<b>Title:</b>	An Act requiring a residency affidavit by a candidate
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Rep. Tackey Chan ( <i>Quincy</i> )
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	June 17, 2025
<b>Reporting Deadline:</b>	August 16, 2025
<b>Prior History:</b>	2023-24 (H.666) Ordered to study 2021-22 (H.768): Ordered to study
<b>Similar Matters:</b>	N/A

**CURRENT LAW:**

*M.G.L. c. 53 § 11 – Certificates of nomination and nomination papers; objections; filing:*

When nomination papers have been properly filed and are in conformity with the law, they shall be valid unless written objections are made either to the Secretary of the Commonwealth for state offices or with municipal clerks for municipal offices.

**SUMMARY:**

*[A neutral summary of the changes to current law proposed by the bill]*

The bill requires candidates seeking state, municipal or county office to, prior to the deadline for nomination papers, submit an affidavit affirming they meet the residency requirement for that office. Challenges to such affidavits must be submitted to the town or city clerk for municipal office or to the Secretary of State for state or county office no less than 10 days before the date when a candidate can withdraw their candidacy. Candidates found to not satisfy residency requirements after a challenge will have their nomination withdrawn. The Secretary of State is directed to establish the relevant rules and regulations on how to execute this.