

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

Bill Number:	H.802
Title:	<i>An Act requiring photo ID's to vote</i>
Sponsor(s):	Rep. Donald Berthiaume (<i>Spencer</i>)
Hearing Date:	July 8, 2025
Reporting Deadline:	September 6, 2025
Prior History:	2023-24 (H.658); Ordered to study 2021-22 (H.762); Ordered to study
Similar Matters:	N/A

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 54 § 76(b) – Failure to present voter identification; right to challenge vote: Allows voters who do not present ID when requested to cast a ballot, but their vote may be challenged. First-time federal voters who registered by mail after January 1, 2003, must show valid ID unless they submitted acceptable identification or verifiable personal information when registering. Voters without ID may cast a provisional ballot. Certain groups, including overseas and disabled voters, are exempt from these requirements.

SUMMARY: This bill requires all voters in public elections to present a current valid photo ID before voting, regardless of how or when they registered. It significantly expands the identification requirement beyond current law, which only applies ID rules to certain first-time federal voters, and makes photo ID mandatory for all voters. It also defines a limited list of acceptable photo IDs, such as a driver's license, military ID, or student ID.