

# **Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure**

## **2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) Bill Summary**

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**BILL NUMBER:** H475

**TITLE:** An Act eliminating the residency requirement for fortune tellers

**SPONSOR(S):** Whipps, Susannah

**HEARING DATE:** April 14, 2025

**REPORTING DEADLINE:** June 13, 2025

### **PRIOR HISTORY**

(2023-2024): H3893 – Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to House Steering, Policy and Scheduling; Ordered to a third reading.

### **CURRENT LAW**

Section 185I of Chapter 140 of the General Laws governs the license application process, fees, and fines for violations relative to the practice of fortune telling; and prohibits the telling of fortunes for money without a local, non-transferable license. Applicants for a license must reside in the municipality where the license is sought for a continuous 12-month period prior to application submission.

### **SUMMARY**

This legislation seeks to remove the residency requirement for a fortune teller's license, which currently requires that fortune tellers live in the city or town they practice in.