



## Legislation Summary:

### **An Act to protect fundamental freedoms and prohibit discriminatory registration programs**

Initial bill number: [S787/H873](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. Harriette Chandler, Rep. Jay Kaufman

This bill will 1) bar state agencies and employees from establishing or helping the federal government to establish any discriminatory “registration” system based on religion, national origin, or any other protected identity, and 2) prevent government agencies from collecting information about residents’ protected First Amendment activities — their speech, associations, or religious beliefs — except when law enforcement has reasonable grounds to suspect a person is involved in a crime and their protected activities are directly relevant to the investigation.

This bill will prevent Massachusetts government officials and agencies from assisting the federal government in “round up” and “registration” programs, such as the internment of the Japanese in WWII and the surveillance of minorities and Vietnam War protesters by the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover.

**League position:** The LWVUS stands firmly in support of protecting the freedoms of all in terms of equality of opportunity and equal rights in all circumstances (LWVUS Impact on Issues, 2016-18, page 2 of Social Policy PDF). Further, “The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.” p. 30.