

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1694**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act relative to victims rights..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 228 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 14 the following section:-

3 Section 15. The death of a criminal defendant who is convicted of a criminal offense  
4 shall automatically terminate the right to appeal or any appeal pending of such conviction, and  
5 where such conviction has not been previously vacated or reversed by an order or decision of a  
6 court, the judgment of conviction shall stand.

7 This section shall not preclude the attorney general or district attorney from  
8 commencing an action to vacate the conviction judgment against a deceased defendant in the  
9 interest of justice.