

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1420**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Tackey Chan***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to violent crimes.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Timothy Cruz</i>	<i>Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, 1 Bulfinch Place, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02114</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Timothy Shugrue</i>	<i>Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, 1 Bulfinch Place, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02114</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Paul Tucker</i>	<i>Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, 1 Bulfinch Place, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02114</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Michael Morrissey</i>	<i>Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, 1 Bulfinch Place, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02114</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>David Sullivan</i>	<i>Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, 1 Bulfinch Place, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02114</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Joseph Early</i>	<i>Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, 1 Bulfinch Place, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02114</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>

*David F. DeCoste*

*5th Plymouth*

*1/26/2023*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1420**

By Representative Chan of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1420) of Tackey Chan and others relative to certain violent crimes. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1486 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to violent crimes.

*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. Section 52 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended in line 18 by inserting after the word “committed,” the  
3 following words:- “while under the age of eighteen, murder in violation of section one of chapter  
4 two hundred sixty-five; or”

5 SECTION 2. Section 54 of Chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended in line 16  
6 by inserting after the second paragraph the following new paragraph:-

7 “The commonwealth may proceed by complaint in juvenile court or in a juvenile session  
8 of a district court, as the case may be, or by indictment as provided by chapter two hundred and  
9 seventy-seven, if a person while under the age of eighteen is alleged to have committed an  
10 offense in violation of section one of chapter two hundred and sixty-five.”

11 SECTION 3. Section 72B of Chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
12 inserting at the beginning thereof the following:-

13 “If a person is found guilty or adjudicated delinquent by reason of murder in the first  
14 degree committed before his fourteenth birthday under the provisions of section one of chapter  
15 two hundred and sixty-five, the person shall be sentenced to 20 years with possibility of parole  
16 after 15 years; or if found guilty or adjudicated delinquent by reason of murder in the second  
17 degree, the person shall be sentenced to 15 years with possibility of parole after 10 years in  
18 accordance with section fifty-eight of chapter one hundred nineteen.”

19 SECTION 4. Chapter 279 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
20 striking out Section 24 and inserting in its place the following:-

21 Section 24. If a convict is sentenced to the state prison, except as a habitual criminal, the  
22 court shall not fix the term of imprisonment, but shall fix a maximum and a minimum term for  
23 which he may be imprisoned. The maximum term shall not be longer than the longest term fixed  
24 by law for the punishment of the crime of which he has been convicted, and the minimum term  
25 shall be a term set by the court, except that, where an alternative sentence to a house of  
26 correction is permitted for the offense, a minimum state prison term may not be less than one  
27 year. In the case of a sentence to life imprisonment, except in the case of a sentence for murder  
28 in the first degree, and in the case of multiple life sentences arising out of separate and distinct  
29 incidents that occurred at different times, where the second offense occurred subsequent to the  
30 first conviction, the court shall fix a minimum term which shall not be less than 15 years nor  
31 more than 25 years. In the case of a sentence for murder in the first degree imposed upon a  
32 person who has been designated pursuant to subsection (b) of section two of chapter two hundred

33 and sixty-five as eligible for parole, the court shall fix a minimum term which shall not be less  
34 than 35 years.