

HOUSE No. 1504

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Colleen M. Garry

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 to further protect children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/10/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1504

By Representative Garry of Dracut, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1504) of Colleen M. Garry relative to the reporting of missing children. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1592 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to further protect children.

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 269 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following new section:

3 Section 20: A parent, legal guardian or caretaker who willfully fails to contact law
4 enforcement or emergency personnel concerning the safety of a minor child, 16 years of age or
5 younger, in his or her care whose whereabouts has not been ascertained within the past 48 hours
6 shall be punished by imprisonment in state prison for not more than five years.

7 A parent, legal guardian or caretaker of a minor child, 16 years of age or younger, who
8 has knowledge of the death of said child, and who fails to notify law enforcement or emergency
9 personnel of said death within one hour of their knowledge of the occurrence, shall be punishable
10 by imprisonment in state prison for not more than five years, or by a fine of not more than ten

11 thousand dollars and imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than two and one half
12 years.