

HOUSE No. 1818

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bud L. Williams

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 eliminating mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/14/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>4/3/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1818

By Representative Williams of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1818) of Bud L. Williams relative to eliminating mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1928 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act eliminating mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses.

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 32 of chapter 94C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by

3 (a) Striking out the words “less than one thousand nor” in subsection (a);

4 (b) Striking out the words “less than 3 ½ nor” in subsection (b) and further striking
5 the second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-
6 No sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more
7 than twenty-five thousand dollars;

8 (c) Repealing subsection (c).

9 SECTION 2. Section 32A of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by

- 10 (a) Striking out the words “less than one thousand nor” in subsection (a);
- 11 (b) Striking out the words “less than 2 nor” in subsection (b) and further striking the
12 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
13 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
14 twenty-five thousand dollars;
- 15 (c) Striking out the words “less than two and one-half nor” and the words “less than
16 one nor” in subsection (c) and further striking the second sentence in the said subsection and
17 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No sentence imposed under the provisions of
18 this section shall be punished by a fine of more than ten thousand dollars;
- 19 (d) Striking out the words “less than 3 ½ nor” and further the words “less than two
20 thousand five hundred nor” and further the words “but not in lieu of the mandatory minimum
21 term of imprisonment, as established herein” in subsection (d)
- 22 (e) Repealing subsection (e).
- 23 SECTION 3. Section 32B of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
- 24 (a) Striking out the words “less than five hundred nor” in subsection (a);
- 25 (b) Striking out the words “less than two and one-half nor” and the words “less than
26 18 months nor” in subsection (b) and further striking the second sentence in the said subsection
27 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No sentence imposed under the provisions
28 of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than ten thousand dollars;
- 29 (c) Repealing subsection (c).

30 SECTION 4. Section 32C of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by

31 (a) Striking out the words “less than five hundred nor” in subsection (a);

32 (b) Striking out the words “less than one nor” and further the words “less than one
33 thousand nor” in subsection (b).

34 SECTION 5. Section 32D of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by

35 (a) Striking out the words “less than two hundred and fifty nor” in subsection (a);

36 (b) Striking out the words “less than five hundred nor” in subsection (b).

37 SECTION 6. Subsection (a) of section 32E of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is
38 hereby amended by

39 (a) Striking out the words “less than two and one-half nor” and the words “less than
40 one nor” in paragraph (1) and further striking the second sentence in the said subsection and
41 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No sentence imposed under the provisions of
42 this section shall be punished by a fine of more than ten thousand dollars;

43 (b) Striking out the words “less than 2 nor” in paragraph (2) and further striking the
44 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
45 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
46 twenty-five thousand dollars;

47 (c) Striking out the words “less than 3 ½ nor” in paragraph (3) and further striking the
48 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No

49 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
50 fifty thousand dollars;

51 (d) Striking out the words “less than 8 nor” in paragraph (4) and further striking the
52 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
53 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
54 two hundred thousand dollars;

55 SECTION 7. Subsection (b) of section 32E of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is
56 hereby amended by

57 (a) Striking out the words “less than 2 nor” in paragraph (1) and further striking the
58 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
59 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
60 twenty-five thousand dollars;

61 (b) Striking out the words “less than 3 ½ nor” in paragraph (2) and further striking the
62 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
63 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
64 fifty thousand dollars;

65 (c) Striking out the words “less than 8 nor” in paragraph (3) and further striking the
66 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
67 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
68 one hundred thousand dollars;

69 (d) Striking out the words “less than 12 nor” in paragraph (4) and further striking the
70 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
71 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
72 fifty thousand dollars;

73 SECTION 8. Subsection (c) of section 32E of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is
74 hereby amended by

75 (a) Striking out the words “less than 3 ½ nor” in paragraph (1) and further striking the
76 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
77 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
78 fifty thousand dollars;

79 (b) Striking out the words “less than 5 nor” in paragraph (2) and further striking the
80 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
81 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
82 fifty thousand dollars;

83 (c) Striking out the words “less than 8 nor” in paragraph (3) and further striking the
84 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
85 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
86 one hundred thousand dollars;

87 (d) Striking out the words “less than 12 nor” in paragraph (4) and further striking the
88 second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No
89 sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than
90 five hundred thousand dollars;

91 SECTION 9. Subsection (d) of section 32E of said chapter 94C is hereby repealed.

92 SECTION 10. Section 32F of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by

93 (a) Striking out the words “less than five nor” in subsection (a) and further striking
94 the second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-
95 No sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more
96 than twenty-five thousand dollars;

97 (b) Striking out the words “less than three nor” in subsection (b) and further striking
98 the second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-
99 No sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more
100 than twenty-five thousand dollars;

101 (c) Striking out the words “less than two and one-half nor” and the words “less than
102 two nor” in subsection (c) and further striking the second sentence in the said subsection and
103 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No sentence imposed under the provisions of
104 this section shall be punished by a fine of more than twenty-five thousand dollars;

105 (d) Striking out the words “less than five nor” in subsection (d) and further striking
106 the second sentence in the said subsection and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-
107 No sentence imposed under the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more
108 than twenty-five thousand dollars;

109 SECTION 11. Section 32G of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
110 striking out the words “less than two hundred and fifty nor.”

111 SECTION 12. Section 32 H of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
112 striking this section in its entirety.

113 SECTION 13. Section 32I of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by

114 (a) Striking out the words “less than one nor” and the words “less than five hundred
115 nor” in subsection (a);

116 (b) Striking out the words “less than three nor” and the words “less than one thousand
117 nor” in subsection (b);

118 (c) Striking out the words “less than fifty nor” in subsection (c).

119 SECTION 14. Section 32J of said chapter 94c, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
120 striking out the section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:-

121 Section 32J. Any person who violates the provisions of section thirty-two, thirty-two A,
122 thirty-two B, thirty-two C, thirty-two D, thirty-two E, thirty-two F or thirty-two I while in or on,
123 or within 300 feet of the real property comprising a public or private accredited preschool,
124 accredited headstart facility, elementary, vocational, or secondary school if the violation occurs
125 between 5:00 a.m. and midnight, whether or not in session, or within one hundred feet of a
126 public park or playground shall be punished by a term of imprisonment in the state prison for not
127 more than fifteen years or by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than two
128 and one-half years. A fine of not more than ten thousand dollars may be imposed. In accordance
129 with the provisions of section eight A of chapter two hundred and seventy-nine such sentence
130 shall begin from and after the expiration of the sentence for violation of section thirty-two, thirty-
131 two A, thirty-two B, thirty-two C, thirty-two D, thirty-two E, thirty-two F or thirty-two I. Lack of

132 knowledge of school boundaries shall not be a defense to any person who violates the provisions
133 of this section.

134 SECTION 15. Section 32K of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
135 striking out the words “less than five years nor” and further striking the second sentence in said
136 section and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No sentence imposed under the
137 provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of more than one hundred thousand dollars.

138 SECTION 16. Section 34 of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
139 striking out the words “less than two and one-half years nor” in the third sentence of the first
140 paragraph.

141 SECTION 17. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a person
142 serving a sentence for violating any provisions of Chapter 94C or charged with such a violation
143 but a guilty plea has not been accepted nor a conviction entered as of the effective date of this act
144 shall be eligible to receive deductions from his sentence for good conduct under Sections 129C
145 and 129D of Chapter 127.

146 SECTION 18. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a person
147 serving a sentence for violating any provisions of Chapter 94C or charged with such a violation
148 but a guilty plea has not been accepted nor a conviction entered as of the effective date of this
149 section shall be eligible to participate in education, training, employment or work release
150 programs established pursuant to Sections 49, 49B, 49C, 86F and 86G of Chapter 127.

151 SECTION 19. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a person
152 serving a sentence for violating any provisions of Chapter 94C or charged with such a violation
153 but a guilty plea has not been accepted nor a conviction entered as of the effective date of this

154 section shall not be eligible for parole until he or she has served 1/2 of the mandatory minimum
155 sentence.