

HOUSE No. 1584

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce J. Ayers

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 establishing a mandatory sentence for destruction, defacement or damage to burial tombs and grave markers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1584

By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1584) of Bruce J. Ayers that provision be made for a minimum mandatory sentence for the willful destruction of burial tombs and grave markers. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1388 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act establishing a mandatory sentence for destruction, defacement or damage to burial tombs and grave markers.

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 73 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after the word “not”, as appearing in line 12, the following new text:—“less than one
3 thousand dollars and not”.

4 SECTION 2. Section 73 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
5 adding at the end thereof the following text:—

6 “The sentence imposed under this section shall not be reduced to less than 6 months, nor
7 suspended, nor shall any person convicted under this section be eligible for probation, parole or
8 furlough or receive any deduction from his sentence for good conduct until he shall have served
9 no less than 6 months of such sentence. Prosecutions commenced under this section shall neither

10 be continued without a finding nor placed on file. The provisions of section 87-seven of chapter
11 276 shall not apply to a person charged with a violation of this section.”