

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1599**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Antonio F. D. Cabral***

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*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 for the Youth Court Justice Fund.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1599**

By Representative Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1599) of Antonio F. D. Cabral for legislation to establish a youth restorative justice fund. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1402 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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An Act for the Youth Court Justice Fund.

*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. The General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, are hereby  
2 amended by inserting after chapter 94I the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 94J. YOUTH COURT JUSTICE FUND

4 Section 1. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
5 separate fund, to be known as the Youth Court Justice Fund. The fund shall be credited the  
6 portion of any monies and proceeds received by the Commonwealth pursuant to subsection (d) of  
7 section 47 of chapter 94C of the General Laws and shall be administered in accordance therewith  
8 by the secretary of public safety. The state treasurer shall be treasurer and custodian of the fund,  
9 shall have the custody of its monies and shall disperse the monies according to the request of the

10 secretary of public safety and security. Monies deposited in the fund shall be used solely for the  
11 provisions of subsection (d) of section 47 of said chapter 94C.

12 SECTION 2. Subsection (d) of section 47 of chapter 94C of the General Laws, as so  
13 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 121-127, inclusive, the second paragraph  
14 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraphs:-

15 “(1) The final order of the court shall provide that said monies and the proceeds of any  
16 such sale shall be distributed in the following manner: 34 per cent shall be distributed to the  
17 Youth Court Justice Fund for the support and expansion of restorative justice models of juvenile  
18 diversion, provided further that no less than 50 percent of the monies of the fund be directed to  
19 Youth Courts; 33 per cent to the prosecuting district attorney or attorney general; and 33 per cent  
20 to the city, town, or state police department involved in the seizure, provided, however, that more  
21 than one department was substantially involved in the seizure, the court having jurisdiction of the  
22 forfeiture proceeds shall equitably distribute said proceeds among those departments.

23 (2) For the purposes of this section, ‘youth court’ means any administrative forum,  
24 organized as a non-profit or public entity, whereby first-time juvenile offenders who have  
25 committed misdemeanor crimes are diverted to an informal proceeding where they  
26 receive sanctions based on the recommendation of similarly aged volunteers.

27 (3) The secretary of public safety and security is hereby granted the authority to  
28 administer the Youth Court Justice Fund established pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 47 of  
29 Chapter 94C for the purpose of making grants to youth court and juvenile diversion programs  
30 using a restorative justice model. Such grants shall be made on an annual basis to these  
31 programs, at the discretion of the secretary.

32 (4) A youth court or juvenile diversion program that receives grants established by this  
33 section must account for all funds by providing an annual report to the secretary of public safety  
34 and security that documents all monies received by the youth court or juvenile diversion program  
35 and all payments made by the youth court and provides any additional information the secretary  
36 may request.”

37 SECTION 3. Subsection (d) of said section, of said chapter, as so appearing, is hereby  
38 further amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the following  
39 paragraphs:

40 “On February fifteenth of each year, each district attorney, the attorney general, the  
41 colonel and superintendent of the state police, and the secretary of the Executive Office of Public  
42 Safety and Security shall post on-line and file a detailed report with the house committee on  
43 ways and means, the senate committee on ways and ways and means, and the joint committee on  
44 public safety and homeland security containing the total amounts collected pursuant to  
45 subsection (d) of section 47 of chapter 94C and each expenditure made from such amounts.  
46 Reports filed with said committees annually on February fifteenth shall detail said deposit and  
47 expenditure of all monies for the preceding fiscal year and the current fiscal year through  
48 December thirty-first.

49 On February fifteenth of each year, each chief of police of such city or town shall file a  
50 detailed report with the division of local services of the department of revenue containing the  
51 total amounts collected pursuant to subsection d of section 47 of chapter 94C and each  
52 expenditure made from such amounts. The division shall post said reports on-line within 60 days  
53 of said deadlines and file the report with the house committee on ways and means, the senate

54 committee on ways and means, and the joint committee on public safety and homeland security.  
55 Reports filed with said department annually in February fifteenth shall detail such deposits and  
56 expenditures of all monies for the preceding fiscal year and the current fiscal year through  
57 December thirty-first.”

58 SECTION 4. The district attorney, the attorney general and the secretary of the  
59 Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security shall post the report described in  
60 subsection (a) of this section within 90 days of the close of the fiscal year in which this bill is  
61 enacted, or the fifteenth of February, whichever is first. The chief of police or such city or town  
62 shall file the report described in subsection (a) of this section within 90 days of the close of the  
63 fiscal year in which this bill is enacted, or the fifteen of February, whichever is first.