HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3563 FILED ON: 1/17/2025

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1719

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:
Colleen M. Garry	*36th Middlesex*	*1/17/2025*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3563 FILED ON: 1/17/2025

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1719

By Representative Garry of Dracut, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1719) of Colleen M. Garry relative to the reporting of missing children. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *1504* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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:

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

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

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

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