

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

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**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>1/15/2025</i>

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

[Pin Slip]

[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:*

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.