

SENATE No. 1255

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael F. Rush

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 protecting bank employees and customers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Michael F. Rush

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk and Suffolk

SENATE No. 1255

By Mr. Rush, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1255) of Michael F. Rush for legislation relative to bank robberies and collection of fraudulent checks. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1117 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act protecting bank employees and customers.

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 40a of chapter 93 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after the last sentence in the first paragraph the
3 following new sentence:– Action taken under this section may be brought before the court where
4 either the plaintiff or defendant lives or has a place of business or employment.

5 SECTION 2. Section 17 of chapter 265 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
6 amended by striking out said section and inserting in place thereof the following new section:–

7 Section 17. Whoever, being armed with a dangerous weapon, assaults another and robs,
8 steals or takes from his person money or other property which may be the subject of larceny shall
9 be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life or for any term of years; provided,
10 however, that any person who commits any offense described herein while masked or disguised

11 or while having his features artificially distorted, shall, for the first offense be sentenced to
12 imprisonment for not less than 5 years and for any subsequent offense for not less than 10 years.
13 Whoever commits any offense described herein while armed with a firearm, shotgun, rifle,
14 machine gun or assault weapon or displays what appears to be a firearm, improvised explosive
15 device or other deadly weapon, hypodermic needle or any other device that may cause or is
16 intended to inflict bodily injury or commits a robbery within and against a banking institution as
17 defined in section 1 of chapter 167A or a credit union as defined in section 1 of chapter 171 shall
18 be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 5 years. Any person who
19 commits a subsequent offense while armed with a firearm, shotgun, rifle, machine gun or assault
20 weapon or displays what appears to be a firearm, improvised explosive device or other deadly
21 weapon, hypodermic needle or any other device that may cause or is intended to inflict bodily
22 injury or commits a robbery within and against a banking institution as defined in section 1 of
23 chapter 167A or a credit union as defined in section 1 of chapter 171 shall be punished by
24 imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 15 years.

25 SECTION 3. Section 19 of said chapter 265 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
26 hereby amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following
27 subsection (b):—Whoever, not being armed with a dangerous weapon, by force and violence, or
28 by assault and putting in fear, robs, steals or takes from the person of another, or from his
29 immediate control, money or other property which may be the subject of larceny, including
30 attempted robbery of a bank as defined in section 1 of chapter 167A or a credit union as defined
31 in section 1 of chapter 171 shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life or for
32 any term of not less than 30 months.

33 SECTION 4. Section 30 of chapter 266 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is further
34 amended by adding to the end of paragraph (1) the following new sentence:– If the larceny
35 involved monies received through the uttering of a forged, altered or counterfeit check, draft or
36 order for the payment of money from any bank or other depository, action may be taken before
37 either the court having jurisdiction where the uttering took place or where the payee bank or
38 other depository’s main office is located.

39 SECTION 5. Section 37 of said chapter 266 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
40 hereby amended by adding the following sentence to the end of said section:– Action taken
41 under this jurisdiction where the crime was committed or where the main office of the bank or
42 other depository are located.