

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Liz Miranda*

*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 an office of unsolved homicides.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Liz Miranda*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Second Suffolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing an office of unsolved homicides.

*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 12 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 35 the following section:

3 Section 36. (a) There shall be within the office of the attorney general an office of  
4 unsolved homicides. Said office shall coordinate with statewide unsolved murders task force to  
5 address homicides committed within the commonwealth which remain unsolved longer than  
6 three years after their occurrence.

7 (b) Definitions:

8 (1) The term “immediate family member” means a parent, parent-in-law, grandparent,  
9 grandparent-in-law, sibling, spouse or person in a substantive dating relationship or engagement  
10 relations, child or step-child.

11 (c) Immediate family members of Massachusetts homicide victims whose homicides have  
12 gone unsolved for longer than three years shall have the right to petition the office of unsolved

13 homicides via written application to determine if a full reinvestigation would result in either the  
14 identification of probative investigative leads or a likely perpetrator.

15 (d) The office of unsolved homicides shall report back to the immediate family member  
16 in writing within ninety days of receiving the written application outcome of the case review.

17 The review shall include, but not be limited to:

18 (1) an analysis of the investigation of the case including what investigative steps or  
19 follow-up steps might have been missed in the initial investigation;

20 (2) an assessment of whether witnesses should be interviewed and reinterviewed;

21 (3) an examination of physical evidence to see if all appropriate forensic testing and  
22 analysis was performed in the first instance or if additional testing might produce information  
23 relevant to the investigation; and

24 (4) an update of the case file using the most current investigative standards as of the date  
25 of the review to the extent that it would help develop probative leads.

26 (e) The attorney general shall develop policies and promulgate regulations necessary to  
27 the implementation of this section.

28 SECTION 2. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
29 184A the following 3 sections:-

30 Section 184B. (a) There shall be a statewide unsolved homicides task force, hereinafter  
31 referred to as the task force, to investigate and prosecute unsolved homicides in the  
32 commonwealth. The task force shall consist of the following members or their designees: the  
33 attorney general, and the President of the Massachusetts District Attorney Association, who shall

34 serve as co-chairs; the secretary of public safety and security; the colonel of state police; the  
35 commissioners or Chief of Police for Boston, Worcester, and Springfield; the chief counsel of  
36 the committee for public counsel services; the district attorney for each county; and three  
37 representatives from the survivor community.

38 (b) The task force shall establish teams of investigators and other professionals with  
39 expertise in unsolved homicides to assist the district attorneys in each county in reviewing and  
40 pursuing unsolved homicide cases. The teams shall include, but not be limited to, state police  
41 detectives, detectives from Boston, Springfield, and Worcester Police Department, forensic  
42 scientists, crime analysts, victim advocates, and defense attorneys. The teams shall have access  
43 to all relevant records, evidence, and databases related to unsolved homicides, including those  
44 maintained by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

45 (c) The task force shall establish a toll-free tip line and a website for anyone to report  
46 information about unsolved homicides in Massachusetts. The tip line and the website shall be  
47 operated by the attorney general's office in collaboration with the state police, the Boston,  
48 Worcester, Springfield Police Department, and the district attorneys. The tip line and the website  
49 shall ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of the callers and users, unless they choose to  
50 disclose their identity. The tip line and the website shall also provide information on rewards, if  
51 any, for providing information that leads to an arrest or conviction in an unsolved homicide case.

52 (d) The task force shall meet at least quarterly to review the progress and challenges of  
53 the teams, share best practices and resources, coordinate interagency cooperation, and identify  
54 legislative or policy changes that may enhance the investigation and prosecution of unsolved

55 homicides. The task force shall also provide training and technical assistance to local law  
56 enforcement agencies on unsolved homicide investigations.

57 (e) The task force shall submit an annual report to the governor, the president of the  
58 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs of the joint committee on  
59 public safety and homeland security on or before December 31 of each year. The report shall  
60 include, but not be limited to, the following information: (i) the number of unsolved homicides in  
61 the commonwealth; (ii) the number of unsolved homicide cases reviewed and pursued by the  
62 teams; (iii) the number of arrests, indictments, convictions, and acquittals resulting from the  
63 work of the teams; (iv) the challenges and barriers faced by the teams in investigating and  
64 prosecuting unsolved homicides; (v) the recommendations for improving the effectiveness and  
65 efficiency of the task force and its teams; and (vi) any other information deemed relevant by the  
66 task force.

67 Section 184C. (a) There shall be a state-wide database of unsolved homicides, hereinafter  
68 referred to as the database, to collect, store, and share information on all homicides that remain  
69 unsolved in the commonwealth. The database shall be maintained by the attorney general's office  
70 in collaboration with the statewide unsolved homicides task force established under section  
71 184B.

72 (b) The database shall include, but not be limited to, the following information for each  
73 unsolved homicide case: (i) the name, age, gender, race, and other identifying characteristics of  
74 the victim; (ii) the date, time, location, and manner of death; (iii) the cause and nature of the  
75 injuries; (iv) the status and history of the investigation; (v) any physical evidence, forensic  
76 analysis, or DNA profiles; (vi) any suspects, persons of interest, witnesses, or informants; (vii)

77 any rewards offered or tips received; and (viii) any other information deemed relevant by the  
78 attorney general or the task force.

79 (c) The attorney general shall establish rules and regulations for the operation and  
80 administration of the database, including but not limited to: (i) the criteria and procedures for  
81 entering, updating, verifying, and deleting data; (ii) the standards and protocols for ensuring the  
82 accuracy, security, and confidentiality of data; (iii) the criteria and procedures for accessing,  
83 searching, and retrieving data; (iv) the criteria and procedures for sharing and exchanging data  
84 with other law enforcement agencies, criminal justice entities, or authorized persons; and (v) the  
85 criteria and procedures for reporting and auditing data.

86 (d) The attorney general shall ensure that the database is compatible and interoperable  
87 with other existing or future databases related to unsolved homicides, such as those maintained  
88 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Institute of Justice or other states.

89 (e) The attorney general shall submit an annual report to the governor, the president of  
90 the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs of the joint committee on  
91 public safety and homeland security on or before December 31 of each year. The report shall  
92 include, but not be limited to, the following information: (i) the number and characteristics of  
93 unsolved homicide cases entered into the database; (ii) the number and characteristics of  
94 unsolved homicide cases solved or cleared with the assistance of the database; (iii) the number  
95 and characteristics of unsolved homicide cases shared or exchanged with other databases or  
96 agencies; (iv) the challenges and barriers faced by the attorney general or the task force in  
97 maintaining and utilizing the database; (v) the recommendations for improving the effectiveness

98 and efficiency of the database; and (vi) any other information deemed relevant by the attorney  
99 general or the task force.

100 Section 184D. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the  
101 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Unsolved Homicides Task Force Fund,  
102 hereinafter referred to as the fund. The fund shall consist of revenues collected by the  
103 commonwealth from the following sources: (i) any federal grants or awards received by the  
104 commonwealth for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting unsolved homicides; (ii) any  
105 private donations or contributions made to the commonwealth for the purpose of investigating  
106 and prosecuting unsolved homicides; (iii) any funds appropriated by the general court for the  
107 purpose of investigating and prosecuting unsolved homicides; (iv) any interest earned on such  
108 revenues; (v) and an annual 15% payment of all asset forfeiture funds from each district attorney.

109 (b) The fund shall be administered by the attorney general, who shall serve as the trustee  
110 of the fund. The attorney general shall expend such amounts from the fund as he or she deems  
111 necessary to support the operations and activities of the statewide unsolved homicides task force  
112 established under section 184B of chapter 6 of the General Laws. The attorney general shall also  
113 seek to maximize the amount of federal funding available for the task force by applying for  
114 grants and awards from various federal agencies, including but not limited to, the Office for  
115 Victims of Crime, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Justice Programs, and the  
116 Department of the Interior.

117 (c) The attorney general shall submit an annual report to the governor, the president of  
118 the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs of the joint committee on  
119 public safety and homeland security on or before December 31 of each year. The report shall

120 include, but not be limited to, the following information: (i) the amount and source of revenues  
121 deposited into the fund; (ii) the amount and purpose of expenditures made from the fund; (iii) the  
122 status and outcome of any federal grant or award applications submitted by or on behalf of the  
123 task force; and (iv) any other information deemed relevant by the attorney general.

124 SECTION 3. Not later than June 30, 2026, the comptroller shall transfer \$10,000,000  
125 from the General Fund to the Unsolved Homicides Task Force Fund established in section 184D  
126 of chapter 6 of the General Laws.