

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H1656

TITLE: An Act relative to the reckless discharge of firearms

SPONSOR: Rep. Marjorie Decker

COSPONSOR: None

HEARING DATE: May 6, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H2309 (2023-2024) Public Safety Committee

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 15E of Chapter 265 of the General Laws prohibits assaulting a person with a firearm punishable by up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or up to 20 years in a state prison or a fine of up to \$10,000.

Section 12E of Chapter 269 prohibits discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling or other building in use without the owner's consent punishable by up to 3 months in a house of correction or a \$50 to \$100 fine, or both. It includes exceptions for lawful defense, law enforcement and ceremonies.

Section 12G of Chapter 269 prohibits the intentional or reckless discharge of a firearm that strikes a building or dwelling, punishable by up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 – Adds a new section to Chapter 265 punishing a person who, without regard for the risk of serious bodily injury to another intentionally or recklessly discharges a firearm, and thereby causes a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to another punishable by up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction.