

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO:** H1668

**TITLE:** An Act to enforce support orders for adult children in need of support

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Kate Donaghue and Rep. Adrienne Ramos

**CO-SPONSORS:** None

**HEARING DATE:** April 22, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1144 (R. Kennedy)

**CURRENT LAW:** Chapter 188 of the General Laws outlines the rules and standards for homesteads. A “declared homestead exemption,” as defined in Section 1, is an exemption in the amount of \$1,000,000 created by written declaration for certain types of real property.

Section 3 of Chapter 188 of the General Laws outlines how to acquire and create an estate of homestead by the declaration of one or more owners who occupy or intend to occupy the home as principal resident. The homestead declaration benefits each owner making the declaration and that owner’s family members who occupy or intend to occupy the home as their principal residence.

Section 3 further states that an estate of homestead is exempt from the laws of conveyance, descent, devise, attachment, seizure, execution on judgment, levy and sale for payment of debts or legacies except for: (i) a sale for federal, state and local taxes, assessments, claims and liens; (ii) a lien on the home recorded prior to the creation of the estate of homestead; (iii) a mortgage on the home as provided in sections 8 and 9; (iv) upon an order by a court that a spouse, former spouse or parent shall pay a certain amount weekly or otherwise for the support of a spouse, former spouse or minor children; (v) where buildings on land not owned by the owner of the estate of homestead are attached, levied upon or sold for the ground rent of the lot upon which they are situated; and (vi) upon an execution issued from a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce its judgment based upon fraud, duress, undue influence or lack of capacity

**BILL SUMMARY:**

This legislation adds the words “or adult children” to the end of exemption (iv) in Section 3.