

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1690

TITLE: An Act relative to authorizing electronic signatures for criminal complaints

SPONSOR: Rep. Carole Fiola

COSPONSORS: Rep. Steven Oulette

HEARING DATE: June 3, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H.1490 (2023-2024)
H.1891 (2021-2022)
H.1576 (2019-2020)

SENATE BILL: S1135 (Jehlen)

CURRENT LAW: Section 2 of Chapter 275 establish the procedure for obtaining a complaint from a court or justices against someone who has threatened to commit a crime against the person or property of another.

Section 22 of Chapter 276 of the General Laws establishes the procedure for submitting a complaint to court and obtaining a summons or warrant based on that complaint.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 – Adds language permitting complainants under Section 22 of Chapter 276 to electronically sign the complaint.

Section 2- Removes requirement that law enforcement must be questioned under Section 22 of Chapter 276 by a justice before electronically signing if the complaint is signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.

Section 3 – Adds language permitting complainants under Section 2 of Chapter 275 to electronically sign the complaint.

Section 4 - Removes requirement that law enforcement must be questioned under Section 2 of Chapter 275 by a justice before electronically signing if the complaint is signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.