

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1791

TITLE: An Act establishing mandatory post release supervision in the Commonwealth

SPONSOR: Rep. Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

COSPONSORS: Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson
Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida
Rep. Paul K. Frost
Rep. Todd M. Smola
Rep. Steven Ultrino

HEARING DATE: June 3, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1590 (2023-2024) H1405 (2013-2014)
H1700 (2021-2022) H2208 (2011-2012)
H3340 (2019-2020) H1446 (2009-2010)
H855 (2017-2018) H1515 (2007-2008)
H1413 (2015-2016)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 5 of Chapter 27 of the General Laws establishes parole board powers and duties including outlining requirements for the composition of the Board and establishing guidelines to determine when incarcerated people can become eligible for parole.

Section 133A of Chapter 127 outlines an incarcerated persons eligibility for parole, notice and hearing requirements, parole permits, revision of terms and conditions, revocation, arrest, right to counsel and funds for experts. It specifically exempts prisoners servicing life sentences for murder in the first degree who were 18 at the time of the murder from eligibility.

Section 85 of Chapter 276 outlines the powers and duties of the Parole Board

Section 99 of Chapter 276 outlines the powers and duties of the Commissioner of Probation

Section 24 of Chapter 279 establishes indeterminate sentences for those going to state prison who are not habitual offenders. It also establishes sentencing guidelines for the aged 14 to 17.

BILL SUMMARY:

Section 1- Amends Section 5 of Chapter 27 to add a sentence explicitly requiring the Parole Board to oversee post release supervision set forth in Section 133D of Chapter 127 and Chapter 127A.

Section 2 - Inserts a new Chapter 127A adding a period of post-release supervision of 25 per cent of the maximum term of incarceration to all sentences except life sentences without possibility of parole. It provides exemptions for those who successfully complete probation, receive a parole permit and successfully complete parole or those sentenced to lifetime parole. It also allows for early termination of the program after 9 months of successful completion of the program.

Section 3- Amends Section 85 of Chapter 276 by inserting a clause adding post release supervision to the duties of parole officers. The board is responsible for overseeing those who were incarcerated for more than a year.

Section 4- Amends Section 99 of Chapter 276 by inserting a clause adding post release supervision to the duties of the Commission of Probation. The Commissioner is responsible for overseeing those who were incarcerated for a year or less in an HOC or jail.

Section 5- Amends Section 24 of Chapter 279 by striking the clause that establishes a minimum sentence of 15 years in state prison for those with life sentences. It replaces it to make the minimum at least 20 per cent greater than the minimum term.

Section 6- Sets an effective date for all crimes that take place on or after January 1, 2026.