

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**  
**BILL SUMMARY**

<b>BILL NO.</b>	H1827
<b>TITLE:</b>	An Act relative to police reports involving railroad fatalities.
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Rep. Kathleen R. LaNatra
<b>COSPONSOR(S):</b>	Rep. Michelle L. Badger Sen. Michael D. Brady
<b>HEARING DATE:</b>	June 3, 2025
<b>PRIOR HISTORY:</b>	H4731 (2023-2024)
<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	S1106 (Fernandes)
<b>CURRENT LAW:</b>	<p>Section 97D of Chapter 41 of the General Laws requires that all reports of rape and sexual assault, all reports of abuse perpetrated by family or household members and all communications between police officers and victims of such offenses or abuse be kept confidential by law enforcement officials. The reports are to be available to victims, the attorney of the victim, witness advocates and counselors.</p> <p>Chapter 160 establishes the rules and regulations for railroads in the Commonwealth.</p>
<b>BILL SUMMARY:</b>	<p>Section 1 – Introduces a new section at the end of Chapter 160 that requires police reports and communications between police and crew members about a railroad fatality to be kept confidential. They are to be made available to (i) the host railroad, (ii) the railroad employer of the employee mentioned in such reports and (iii) any other person authorized by judicial order to obtain such information. Violating the section is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or up to 1 year imprisonment.</p>