

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO:** H1902

**TITLE:** An Act relative to the reliability of testifying informants

**SPONSOR:** Rep. John F. Moran

**COSPONSOR:** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 3, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1649 (2023-2024)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 21 of Chapter 233 of the General Laws outlines how a prior conviction may be used to affect a witness’s credibility during testimony and sets time standards for their use.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 - Adds a new section to Chapter 233 clarifying the standards and procedures for determining the reliability of informants testifying in criminal proceedings. It defines “testifying informant” as someone who is purporting to testify about admissions made to them by the accused and has requested, received, or may receive a benefit in connection with such testimony. A “benefit” includes any prosecutorial leniency, immunity or financial reward. Each district attorney’s office and the Attorney General’s office must create and maintain a centralized record on informants, including any deals made or offered to informants which will be collected by EOPSS and made available to prosecutors statewide. The legislation outlines the disclosures required by the Commonwealth on confidential informants required by the Massachusetts Rules of Criminal Procedure. A reliability hearing must be held to determine whether the testimony of the informant is reliable.