

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H1718

TITLE: An Act relative to the concealment of the death of children and the penalties for the sale or purchase of minor children.

SPONSOR: Rep. Colleen M. Garry

COSPONSOR(S): None

HEARING DATE: June 10, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1505 (2023-2024) H1330 (2015-2016)
H1593 (2021-2022) H1350 (2013-2014)
H1420 (2019-2020) H1308 (2011-2012)
H803 (2017-2018)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 50 of Chapter 265 prohibits the knowing participation in or profit from the trafficking of persons for sexual servitude and provides sentencing of 5 to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$25,000. If the person trafficked is under 18 years of age, sentencing may increase to life in prison. A business entity that commits trafficking of persons for sexual servitude may be punished by up to a \$1 million fine.

Section 51 of Chapter 265 prohibits the knowing participation in, or profit from, trafficking of persons for forced services and makes the crime punishable by 5 to 20 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$25,000. If the person trafficked is under 18 years of age sentencing may increase to up to life in prison. A business entity that commits trafficking of persons for forced labor services may be punished by up to a \$1 million fine.

Section 22 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws prohibits concealing the death of a child who, if born alive, would be a child born out of wedlock, which concealment prevents the determination of whether the child was born alive and then killed. It is punishable by up to 1 year incarceration or a fine of not more than \$100.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 – Amends Section 22 of Chapter 272 to remove the provision that the child must have been born out of wedlock and increases the sentencing to up to 5 years in prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction.

Section 2 – Adds a new section 22A to Chapter 272 prohibiting the purchase, trade, sale or arrangement for sale of a minor child for anything of value punishable by up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction.