

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

**BILL NO.** H1744

**TITLE:** An Act to prevent child labor exploitation and trafficking.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Christopher Hendricks

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Antonio F. D. Cabral  
Sen. Mark C. Montigny

**HEARING DATE:** June 10, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1196 (Montigny)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 1 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws defines terms for the chapter which establishes the rules and procedures for labor and industries in the Commonwealth.

Section 56 of said Chapter 149 restricts the amount and types of work that minors are allowed to perform in the Commonwealth.

Section 60 of said Chapter 149 prohibits children under 16 from working in certain fields.

Section 62 of said Chapter 149 prohibits children from 16 to 18 years of age from working in and around certain dangerous conditions.

Section 78 of said Chapter 149 enumerates fines for violating Sections 60 to 74 of Chapter 149.

Section 78A of said Chapter 149 permits an alternative to criminal proceedings from Section 78, in the form of written warnings and civil citations.

Section 79 of said Chapter 149 punishes anyone who hinders or delays any authorized inspector or supervisor of attendance in the performance of his duties to enforce Chapter 149 by a fine of between \$25-200 or by imprisonment of up to 2 months or both.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds “seafood packing or processing facilities” to the definition of “Buildings used for industrial purposes” or “industrial establishments” in Section 1 of Chapter 149.

Sections 2 to 5 – Add seafood packing and processing facilities to the restrictions in Sections 56, 60 and 62 of Chapter 149.

Sections 6 to 11 – Increase the penalties provided for violations in Sections 78, 78A and 79 of Chapter 149.