

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1900

TITLE: An Act to prevent the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences based on juvenile adjudication

SPONSOR: Rep. Frank Moran

CO-SPONSORS: Rep. Danillo Sena

HEARING DATE: June 10, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1688 (2023-2024)
H1794 (2021-2022)
H1517 (2019-2020)

SENATE BILLS: S1081 (Eldridge)

CURRENT LAW: Section 52 of chapter 119 of the General Laws defines the ways a person can be categorized as a youthful offender (including violating Section 10 and 10E of Chapter 269) and provides that nothing in the chapter can be used to allow for a lesser sentence than the mandatory commitment periods of Chapter 119.

Section 54 of said Chapter 119 establishes the process for adjudication and determination of a youthful offender

Section 58 of said Chapter 119 establishes the types of sentences available to convicted youthful offenders, including a process in which the Court can undertake an assessment of the offender based on public safety and sentence them on that basis to a juvenile prison separate from the general population.

Section 121 of Chapter 140 defines “violent crime” as any crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, or any act of juvenile delinquency involving the use or possession of a deadly weapon that would be punishable by imprisonment for such term if committed by an adult, that: (i) has as an element the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force or a deadly weapon against the person of another; (ii) is burglary, extortion, arson or kidnapping; (iii) involves the use of explosives; or (iv) otherwise involves conduct that presents a serious risk of physical injury to another.

Section 10 of Chapter 269 establishes the penalties for carrying a dangerous weapon, possession of machine guns and sawed-off shot guns, large capacity weapons and large capacity feeding devices.

Section 10E of Chapter 269 establishes the penalties for illegal sales and transactions of firearms.

Section 10G of Chapter 269 lengthens mandatory-minimum sentences for defendants convicted of specified gun offenses under General Laws c. 269 s. 10 who previously were convicted of violent crimes or serious drug offenses.

BILL SUMMARY:

Section 1 – Makes a numbering change to Section 52 of Chapter 119.

Section 2 – Removes the requirement in Section 52 of Chapter 119 that the mandatory minimum sentence be enforced against youthful offenders.

Section 3 - Makes a numbering change to Section 54 of Chapter 119.

Section 4 – Strikes the sentencing of juveniles to prison or a house of corrections from Section 58 of Chapter 119 based on a dangerousness hearing.

Section 5 – Adds a requirement to Section 10 of Chapter 269 barring any type of juvenile adjudication from being considered a prior conviction, including, but not limited to, a delinquent child or youthful offender adjudication, a juvenile adjudication in another jurisdiction, or an adult conviction in another jurisdiction that would be a juvenile adjudication in the Commonwealth.

Section 6 – Redefines the definition of violent crime in Section 10G of Chapter 269 as any crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding 1 year that: (i) has as an element of the offense the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force or a deadly weapon against the person of another; (ii) is burglary, extortion, arson or kidnapping; or (iii) involves the use of explosives.

Section 7 – Adds a subsection to Section 10G of Chapter 269 preventing any type of juvenile adjudication from being considered a prior conviction in the chapter and preventing them from being used as a prior predicate conviction that triggers an enhanced sentence for an adult or a juvenile.

Section 8 – Provides that anyone who was sentenced under the schemes that this bill changes be resentenced to reflect the updated laws.