

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H2002

TITLE: An Act relative to parental visitation and custody for children of rape victims

SPONSOR: Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida

COSPONSORS: None

HEARING DATE: June 10, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1771 (2023-2024)
H1880 (2021-2022)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 3 of Chapter 209C outlines court jurisdiction for parentage, support, custody and visitation matters. It prohibits any court from making an order giving visitation rights to a parent who has been convicted of murder in the first degree of the other parent unless the child reaches the age of majority and assents to the visitation. Visitation is also prohibited if a parent is convicted of rape and the child is the product of that rape unless the child reaches the age of majority, provides assent and the court finds visitation to be in the best interest of the child.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 - Updates Section 3 of Chapter 209C to only permit visitation for a parent convicted of rape if the child conceived of that rape files an action for visitation or custody and has either reached the age of 18 or been adjudicated as emancipated from the other parent of the child.