

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H1676

TITLE: An Act to respect and protect domestic violence and sexual assault victims and survivors.

SPONSOR: Rep. Michelle M. DuBois

COSPONSOR(S): None

HEARING DATE: June 17, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1474 (2023-2024)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 97D of Chapter 41 of the General Laws requires all reports of rape, sexual assault or abuse perpetrated by family or household members and all communications between police officers and victims of such offenses or abuse be kept confidential by law enforcement officials. The reports must be made available to: (i) the victim, their attorney and prosecutors; (ii) victim-witness advocates and counselors if necessary to perform their duties; and (iii) other law enforcement officers and persons authorized to admit persons to bail. Violations of the section are punishable by up to 1 year in a house of correction or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 – Adds to Section 97D of Chapter 41 that police department, district attorneys and other legal bodies must respond to public requests for statistical data on these reports with personal information redacted.