

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1746

**TITLE:** An Act enhancing protections for sexual violence survivors.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Natalie M. Higgins and Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Lindsay N. Sabadosa  
Sen. James B. Eldridge  
Rep. James K. Hawkins  
Rep. Steven George Xiarhos  
Rep. Adrienne Pusateri Ramos

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 97B1/2 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws requires hospitals and medical facilities in the Commonwealth to report evidence of sexual assaults that they collect during medical forensic examinations within 24 hours of collection. Law enforcement is then required to take possession of the evidence within 3 days of notice and submit investigatory evidence to a crime laboratory in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred and has a population of more than 150,000. Non-investigatory kits must be safely stored by law enforcement in a manner that preserves evidence for the duration of the statute of limitations. It also requires the crime laboratory to test evidence within 30 days and submit the DNA profile of suspects to CODIS and state DNA databases.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds to Section 97B ½ of Chapter 41 a permission for individuals who do not file a complaint to elect for their evidence kits to be tested or stored by local law enforcement.

Section 2 – Adds to Section 97B ½ of Chapter 41 language preventing law enforcement agencies and agents from using a survivor or victim’s DNA to investigate or compare DNA profiles for any crime other than the incident being investigated. It also adds a requirement preventing law enforcement from adding the survivor or victim’s DNA profile to any database allowing their use in investigation or comparison.