

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1831

**TITLE:** An Act to extend statutes of limitation for incest

**SPONSOR:** Rep. John J. Lawn, Jr.

**COSPONSORS:** Rep. Natalie M. Blais

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1613 (2023-2024) H2314 (2017-2018)  
H1722 (2021-2022) H1443 (2015-2016)  
H1489 (2019-2020)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 17 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws prohibits persons within degrees of consanguinity for which marriages are prohibited or have been declared by law to be incestuous and void from intermarrying or engaging in sexual intercourse.

Section 63 of Chapter 277 sets the statutes of limitations for sexual offenses involving minors at 27 years after the commission of such offense unless supported by independent evidence that corroborates the victim’s allegation. It further suspends the statute of limitations for enhanced indecent assault crimes including incest with a victim under 16 years old until the victim turns 16 or the violation is reported to law enforcement.

**SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Amends Section 63 of Chapter 277 to permit a tolling of the statute of limitations for actions alleging incest in Section 17 of Chapter 272 until the child victim has reached 18 years of age or reports the violation to a law enforcement agency.