

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H2001

**TITLE:** An Act relative to protecting domestic violence victims

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan

**CO-SPONSOR:** Rep. Steven George Xiarhos

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1776 (2023-2024)  
H1882 (2021-2022)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 18C of Chapter 265 of the General Laws imposes a 20 year to life punishment on someone who, knowing or having to reason to know that a person or persons are inside a dwelling place, threatens, tries to harm or harms them with a dangerous weapon.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds to Section 18C of Chapter 265 a requirement to immediately retreat if the person breaking and entering finds the dwelling to be occupied. Failure to retreat results in forfeiting any rights to civil or criminal action against the legal occupants. This legislation also adds a five-year additional sentence if a minor is present during the criminal action.