

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

<b>BILL NO.</b>	H1748
<b>TITLE:</b>	An Act relative to preventing suicide
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Rep. Natalie M. Higgins
<b>COSPONSOR:</b>	Rep. Mark C. Montigny
<b>HEARING DATE:</b>	April 8, 2025
<b>PRIOR HISTORY:</b>	2023-2024, H1548 (Higgins) 2021-2022, H.1640 (Higgins) 2019-2020, H. 4186 (Higgins)
<b>RELATED BILLS:</b>	S1109 (Finegold)
<b>CURRENT LAW:</b>	<p>Section 12 of Chapter 201D states that nothing in the chapter (on healthcare proxies) approves or condones suicide or permits any affirmative or deliberate act to end your life other than to permit the natural process of dying.</p> <p>Section 13 of Chapter 265 criminalizes the act of manslaughter and sets a penalty of imprisonment for up to 25 years or incarceration for up to 2.5 years and a fine of not more than \$1,000.</p>
<b>BILL SUMMARY:</b>	<p>This legislation adds a section to Chapter 265 criminalizing when a person with knowledge of another's suicidal ideation takes one of following two actions which result in the other person committing or attempting to commit suicide: (i) they exercise substantial control over the other person physically, through deceptive manipulation or by using undue influence and through these means intentionally coerce or encourage that person to die or attempt to die by suicide; or (ii) they provide the means or knowledge of such means to the other person with the intent to enable a suicide or suicide attempt or they participate in a physical act that causes or assists in the death or attempted death by suicide.</p> <p>These actions are punished by imprisonment for up to 5 years but prosecution for this crime cannot be in addition to a manslaughter prosecution for the same activity. There is an exemption for a medical treatment lawfully administered or prescribed by a licensed physician. The legislation also includes definitions for</p>

suicide, suicide attempt, suicidal ideation and knowledge of suicidal ideation.