

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1865

TITLE: An Act relative to high speed chases.

SPONSOR: Rep. Christopher M. Markey

COSPONSOR(S): None

HEARING DATE: May 6, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1666 (2023-2024) H1500 (2013-2014)
H1770 (2021-2022) H1289 (2011-2012)
H3389 (2019-2020) H1314 (2009-2010)
H3085 (2017-2018) H3448 (2007-2008)
H1485 (2015-2016)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 17 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle at an unreasonable or improper rate. It establishes speed limits and permits for the positing of specific speed limits by local authorities.

Section 25 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws requires a person while operating a motor vehicle to abide by the signal of a police officer to stop. A violation is punished by up to a \$100 fine.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 – Adds a new section to Chapter 90 that criminalizes willfully ignoring the signal of a police officer to stop a motor vehicle and then driving over twenty miles over the speed limit for the distance of a mile. The offense is punished by up to a \$1,000 fine and up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or up to 5 years in a state prison.