

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1580

**TITLE:** An Act relative to the charitable immunity cap for cases involving sexual abuse.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Jennifer B. Armini and Rep. Natalie M. Higgins

**COSPONSOR(S):** Roy McCarthy  
Rep. James K. Hawkins  
Rep. Natalie M. Blais

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1060 (Crighton)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 85K of Chapter 231 limits the tort liability of certain charitable organizations and the directors, officers or trustees of educational institutions. The liability of charitable corporations, trusts and organizations is capped at \$20,000 for any cause of action stemming from an act committed in the course of an activity done to directly accomplish the charitable purpose of the corporation, trust or association. Liability for medical malpractice claims against nonprofit organizations providing health care is capped at \$1000,000. This cap on charitable liability does not apply if the action was committed in the course of activities primarily commercial in character despite them being done to obtain revenue to be used for charitable purposes. Volunteer directors, officers and trustees of non-profit educational institutions have immunity from tort liability if acting in good faith and within the scope of official functions and duties to damages or injuries unless caused by willful or wanton misconduct. None of the liability limits in this section apply to any motor vehicle case.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds to Section 85K of Chapter 231 excluding from the limitations on liability any cause of action arising out of sexual abuse.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1587

**TITLE:** An Act relative to justice for survivors.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Christine P. Barber and Rep. Brandy Fluker-Reid

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Lindsay N. Sабadosa      Rep. James C. Arena-DeRosa  
Rep. Mike Connolly              Rep. Marjorie C. Decker  
Rep. Patrick J. Kearney        Sen. Jason M. Lewis  
Rep. Samantha Montañо        Rep. Steven Owens

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1256 (Rush)

**CURRENT LAW:** Sections 57 and 59 of Chapter 265 of the General Laws create an affirmative defense of being a victim of human trafficking for certain offenses.

Section 100A of Chapter 276 permits persons with criminal court appearances and dispositions in the Commonwealth to request that the Commissioner of Probation seal the file.

Section 100B of Chapter 276 permits persons with records of a delinquency court appearance in the Commonwealth to request that the Commissioner of Probation seal the file.

Section 100C of Chapter 276 requires the sealing of all records of criminal cases resulting in findings of not guilty, no return by grand jury or no probable cause without petition. Sealing dismissed cases and cases that the prosecutor declined to pursue (nolle prosequi) require a finding by the Court that substantial justice would best be served by a sealing order.

Section 100E of Chapter 276 lists the definitions in use for Sections 100E through 100U which cover sealing and expungement of criminal records.

Section 100K of Chapter 276 permits a Court to order the expungement of any appearance or disposition if it finds clear and convincing evidence that the record was created as a result of false identification, demonstrable error or fraud or an offense which is no longer a crime, and that expungement is in the best interest of justice.

Section 100Q of Chapter 276 prohibits making records sealed pursuant to section 100A or section 100B or expunged pursuant to section 100F, section 100G, section 100H or section 100K available for inspection in any form by any person.

Section 6B of Chapter 279 permits a Court to consider the defendant's status as a primary caretaker before imposing a sentence and unless a sentence of incarceration is required by law, prohibits the Court from imposing a sentence of incarceration without written findings on this status.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds a new Section 10 to Chapter 263 entitled the “Massachusetts Survivors Act” which permits any adult or child charged with a crime to file a motion, any time after a charge has been filed, alleging they are subject to relief pursuant to the Act because their alleged offenses were related to them being a survivor of abuse, sexual assault or human trafficking and seeking pretrial diversion, a reduced sentence or postconviction relief. The moving adult or child (“defendant”) must submit documentation in support of the motion and the Court may have a hearing on the motion. Everything relating to this filing and proceeding is inadmissible in any further proceeding. The Attorney General must collect information on these motions and file an annual report to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

Section 2 – Adds a new Section 10A to Chapter 263 permitting the defendant to seek pretrial diversion in their motion when proceedings have been suspended without a guilty plea for three to 24 months. The motion must include a plan for the diversion period and the Court must make written findings on the motion within 60 days. The Court must dismiss the underlying case if the defendant performs satisfactorily in diversion.

Section 3 – Adds a new Section 10B to Chapter 263 requiring a Court to consider a motion for relief pursuant to Section 2 of the Act during a hearing to impose a sentence or accept a guilty plea. If the Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant has proven the allegations in the motion it may reduce the sentence below the statutory range, suspend the sentence or order probation. The Act provides a list of permissible sentencing deviations and mandates that a child adjudicated as delinquent may not be committed to the Department of Youth Services (DYS).

Section 4 – Adds a new Section 10C to Chapter 263 permitting persons incarcerated or in DYS custody to file a petition for relief pursuant to the Act using a petition form created by the Court. The Court shall then notify the petitioner that they may submit a motion to be resentenced, notify the District Attorney and assign counsel if requested by the petitioner. The motion then proceeds in the same manner as the motion in Section 3 of the Act.

Section 5 – Adds to Section 100E of Chapter 276 a definition for “sexual assault, or human trafficking.”

Sections 6 to 8 – Updates Section 100K of Chapter 276 by adding language permitting a Court to order expungement for an offense related to the petitioner being a victim of abuse, sexual assault or human trafficking and providing the types of credible evidence the Court may consider in determining a petitioner’s eligibility for relief.

Section 9 – Updates Section 100Q of Chapter 276 by inserting a proviso that the inspection of these records may be provided otherwise by law and inserting a reference to Section 100C.

Section 10 – Updates Section 100C of Chapter 276 to permit a judge to seal any court appearance or disposition for an offense related to the petitioner being a survivor of abuse, sexual assault or human trafficking

Section 11 – Adds to Sections 100A, 100B and 100C of Chapter 276 permission for the clerk or any other criminal justice agency to provide access to sealed records to the individual or their legal

representative upon request and without court order. Adds a new Section 6C to Chapter 279 requiring that a person eligible for a reduced or alternative sentence pursuant to the Act be sentenced according to the procedures in Sections 10 and 10A of Chapter 263.

Section 12 – Adds language after Section 6B of Chapter 279 prohibiting the rights under the Act from being waived or barred by any plea agreement. It permits a District Attorney to file a motion to vacate or set aside a judgment of conviction at any time upon clear and convincing evidence that the defendant was convicted of an offense they did not commit.

Section 13 – Repeals Sections 57 and 59 of Chapter 265 and replaces them with language creating the affirmative defense of duress or coercion due to being a survivor of abuse, sexual assault or human trafficking for any criminal or delinquency charge.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**  
**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1593

**TITLE:** An Act protecting minors from the creation of computer-generated child sexual abuse visual materials.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Natalie M. Blais

**COSPONSOR(S):** Sen. Joanne M. Comerford  
Rep. Natalie M. Higgins

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1174 (Mark)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 29A of Chapter 272 of the General Laws prohibits a person with lascivious intent from soliciting, using or permitting a child the person knows or has reason to know is under 18 to pose or be exhibited in a state of nudity, or to participate in any act that depicts or represents sexual conduct for the purpose of representation or reproduction in any visual material and is punishable by 10 to 20 years in prison or a fine of \$10,000 to \$50,000, or both.

Section 29B of Chapter 272 prohibits a person with lascivious intent from disseminating any visual material of a child the person knows or has reason to know is under 18 in a state of nudity or participating in any act that depicts or represents sexual conduct punishable by 10 to 20 years in state prison or a fine of \$10,000 to \$50,000 or three times the money made from such actions (whichever is greater), or both.

Section 29C prohibits a person from knowingly purchasing or possessing any visual reproduction or computer depiction of a child the person knows or has reason to know is under 18 who is engaged, actually or by simulation, in any act of sexual intercourse or contact with any person or animal, masturbation, lewd touching, excretion or urination or abuse within a sexual context or who is depicted as a lewd exhibition punishable by up to 5 years in state prison or 2.5 years in a house of correction or a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000 or both

fine and incarceration. For a second offense the punishment is not less than 5 years in state prison or a fine of \$5,000 to \$20,000, or both. For a third or subsequent offense the punishment is not less than 10 years in state prison or a fine of \$10,000 to \$30,000 or both. Exceptions are made for law enforcement, healthcare providers, attorneys and court personnel during the lawful performance of their official duty or employees of businesses who filter or restrict access to such materials.

Section 29D of Chapter 272 sets separate standards for persons under the age of criminal majority who possess, purchase or disseminate any visual material in violation of the above sections.

Section 31 of Chapter 272 provides definitions to be used in the above sections.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Creates a new Section in Chapter 272 prohibiting a person with lascivious intent from creating child sexual abuse visual material of a child the person knows or has facts giving reason to know is a minor punishable by up to 10 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or a fine of \$10,000 to \$50,000, or both fine and incarceration.

Sections 2 & 3 – Update Section 31 of Chapter 272 to reference the new section created by this Act and to add a definition for “child sexual abuse visual material” which includes visual material and computer-generated images depicting a minor in sexual conduct or in a state of nudity or sexual excitement including material that has been altered through digitization in a manner that would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be an authentic representation or depiction of a minor.

Section 4 – applies the new definition created in this Act to Section 29C of Chapter 272.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1609

**TITLE:** An Act regulating sex offender registration in the 21st century.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Tackey Chan

**COSPONSOR(S):** D.A. Michael Morrissey

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1417 (2023-2024)  
H1491 (2021-2022)  
H1378 (2019–2020)  
H744 (2017–2018)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178C of Chapter 6 of the General Laws defines terms for Sections 178C to 178P.

Section 178D of Chapter 6 establishes the sex offender registry board which requires every sex offender to register with registration data consisting of name, aliases used, date and place of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color, social security number, home address, any secondary addresses and work address and, if the sex offender works at or attends an institution of higher learning, the name and address of the institution, photograph, fingerprints and a description of the offense. It also creates an online registry that publishes the following information for offenders: (i) the name of the sex offender; (ii) the offender's home address and any secondary addresses; (iii) the offender's work address; (iv) the offense for which the offender was convicted or adjudicated and the date of the conviction or adjudication; (v) the sex offender's age, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color; (vi) a photograph of the sex offender, if available; (vii) whether the sex offender has been designated a sexually violent predator; and (viii) whether the offender is in compliance with the registration obligations of sections 178C to 178P, inclusive.

Section 178E of Chapter 6 establishes the methods and procedure for the Commonwealth to transmit the status and information of sex offenders to the federal government.

Section 178F of Chapter 6 requires level 2 and 3 sex offenders to annually verify their registration data. Homeless offenders are required to renew the data every 30 days and shelters are required to share information with the Commonwealth.

Section 178H of Chapter 6 establishes the punishments for a sex offender who fails to register properly.

Section 178J of Chapter 6 establishes the procedures for requesting sex offender information and the penalties for misusing the information.

Section 178K of Chapter 6 creates the sex offender registry board. The board is staffed by seven members who shall be appointed by the governor for terms of six years.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds to Section 178C of Chapter 6 a new definition for “Electronic alias, address and domain” defined as any electronic messages, aliases, website and domains with the purpose of displaying, soliciting or posting information from other web-based applications and databases.

Sections 2 to 4, 6 to 14 and 16 to 18 – Adds a reporting requirement for the offender’s electronic aliases, addresses and domains to the name reporting requirements in Section 178C – 178K.

Sections 5 and 15 – Replaces the language for failing to report in Sections 178E and 178H respectively with enumerated ways in which an offender can fail to report including failure to provide notice of a change of address, and failure to give notice of a change of electronic alias, address or domain, or the addition of an electronic alias, address or domain.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**  
**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1633

**TITLE:** An Act updating and clarifying the statute relating to “upskirting”.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Leigh Davis

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1477 (2023-2024)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 105 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws prohibits willfully photographing, videotaping or electronically surveilling with the intent to secretly conduct or hide such activity: (i) another person who is nude or partially nude without their knowledge or consent; (ii) the sexual or other intimate parts of a person under or around their clothing in an attempt to view these parts without their knowledge or consent. Both are punished by up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both. Includes heightened penalties for surveilling minors. It further prohibits the dissemination of visual images unlawfully obtained under the Section. It defines “sexual and other intimate parts” as human genitals, buttocks, pubic area or female breast below a point immediately above the tip of the areola, whether naked or covered by clothing or undergarments. It defines “partially nude” as the exposure of the human genitals, buttocks, pubic area or female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Amends Section 105 of Chapter 272 by: (i) changing the definition of “partially nude” to partially unclothed, such that one or more sexual or other intimate parts are exposed; (ii) changing the definition of “sexual or other intimate parts” to human genitals, buttocks, pubic area or female nipples and areola, or any part thereof; and (iii) adding language stating that the actual knowledge and consent of the person being captured is an affirmative defense.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1634

**TITLE:** An Act relative to sexual assault by adults in positions of authority or trust.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Leigh Davis

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. James C. Arena-DeRosa Rep. Steven J. Ouellette  
Rep. Homar Gómez Rep. Susannah M. Whipps  
Rep. John F. Moran Rep. Bud L. Williams

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1163 (Lovely)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 21 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws defines “mandated reporter” to include health care providers, educators, childcare workers, probation and parole officers, law enforcement officers, clergy, social workers, foster parents and the child advocate.

Section 13B ½ of Chapter 265 in subsection (b) punishes a mandated reporter who commits an indecent assault and battery on a child under the age of 14 by 10 years to life in state prison.

Section 13H ½ of Chapter 265 punishes a law enforcement officer who commits an indecent assault and battery on a person 14 years or older who is in their custody or control by up to 5 years in state prison, or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction. If the person is under 14 years of age, an elder or a person with a disability the punishment is up to 10 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction. If the person is known to the law enforcement officer as having an intellectual disability the punishment is 5 to 10 years in state prison.

Section 23A of Chapter 265 in subsection (c) punishes a mandated reporter who rapes and abuses a child under 16 years of age by 10 years to life in state prison.

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 with a victim under 16 years old until the victim turns 16 or the violation is reported to law enforcement.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – adds Section 13B  $\frac{1}{4}$  to Chapter 265 punishing a mandated reporter or a person in a position of trust, authority or supervision over a child who commits an indecent assault and battery on the child aged 14 to 17 years old while in a position of trust or anytime thereafter by up to 10 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction. If the child is under the age of 14 the punishment is 10 years to life in state prison.

Section 2 – Strikes subsection (b) from Section 13B  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Chapter 265.

Section 3 – Strikes subsection (c) from Section 23A of Chapter 265.

Section 4 – Adds Section 23A  $\frac{1}{2}$  to Chapter 265 punishing a mandated reporter or a person in a position of trust, authority or supervision over a child who rapes and abuses a child 16 to 18 years of age while in a position of trust or anytime thereafter by up to life in state prison unless a house of correction sentence is otherwise provided for under law. If the child is under 16 years of age the punishment is 10 years to life in prison.

Sections 5 & 6 – Add both new crimes created in this legislation to the list of sexual offenses involving minors which all have a 27-year statute of limitations in Section 63 of Chapter 277.

Sections 7 & 8 – Add both new crimes created in this legislation to the list of enhanced indecent assault crimes with suspended statutes of limitations for victims under 16 years old in Section 63 of Chapter 277.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1639

**TITLE:** An Act relative to eliminating liability limits for abuse of a minor

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Michael S. Day

**COSPONSORS:** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1446 (2023-2024)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 85K of Chapter 231 limits the tort liability of certain charitable organizations and the directors, officers or trustees of educational institutions. It limits the liability of charitable corporations, trusts and organizations to \$20,000 for any cause of action stemming from an act committed in the course of an activity done to directly accomplish the charitable purpose of the corporation, trust or association. Liability for medical malpractice claims against nonprofit organizations providing health care is limited to \$1000,000. This cap on charitable liability does not apply if the action was committed in the course of activities primarily commercial in character despite them being done to obtain revenue to be used for charitable purposes. The section further limits the liability of volunteer directors, officers and trustees of non-profit educational institutions acting in good faith and within the scope of official functions and duties to damages or injuries unless caused by willful or wanton misconduct. None of the liability limits in this section apply to any motor vehicle case.

**SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds to Section 85K of Chapter 231 an exception to the liability limits provided in the section for claims of sexual abuse of a minor.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**  
**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1676

**TITLE:** An Act to respect and protect domestic violence and sexual assault victims and survivors.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Michelle M. DuBois

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1474 (2023-2024)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 97D of Chapter 41 of the General Laws requires all reports of rape, sexual assault or abuse perpetrated by family or household members and all communications between police officers and victims of such offenses or abuse be kept confidential by law enforcement officials. The reports must be made available to: (i) the victim, their attorney and prosecutors; (ii) victim-witness advocates and counselors if necessary to perform their duties; and (iii) other law enforcement officers and persons authorized to admit persons to bail. Violations of the section are punishable by up to 1 year in a house of correction or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds to Section 97D of Chapter 41 that police department, district attorneys and other legal bodies must respond to public requests for statistical data on these reports with personal information redacted.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1702

**TITLE:** An Act relative to sex offenders.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Paul K. Frost

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1498 (2023-2024)  
H1572 (2021-2022)  
H1409 (2019–2020)  
H787 (2017–2018)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178K of Chapter 6 creates the sex offender registry board. The board is staffed by seven members who shall be appointed by the governor for terms of six years. The board is responsible for making guidelines including three levels of notification based on risk of re-offense and degree of dangerousness posed to the public. Sex offenders classified as a level 3 offender may not establish living conditions within any dwelling where the aged, infirm or mentally retarded reside punishable by up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both fine and incarceration.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a restriction to Section 178K of the General Laws preventing level 2 or 3 sex offenders from establishing a home address or any living accommodation or employment at an organization within 500 feet of a public or private school, day care center, or childcare facility.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1708

**TITLE:** An Act criminalizing sexual assault of a passenger by a rideshare operator.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. William C. Galvin

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1472 (Rausch)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178C of Chapter 6 of the General Laws states the definitions applicable to the sex offender registry including a definition for “sex offense.”

Section 1 of Chapter 123A states the definitions relating to the care, treatment and rehabilitation of sexually dangerous persons including a definition for “sexual offense.”

Section 133E of Chapter 127 states the definitions applicable to the section including a definition for “sex offense.” The section permits victims and parents or legal guardians of minor victims of a violent crime or a sex offense for which a sentence was imposed to testify in person at the incarcerated person’s parole hearing or submit written testimony to the parole board.

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 with a victim under 16 years old until the victim turns 16 or the violation is reported to law enforcement.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Sections 1 & 2 – Add to the definition of “sex offense” in Section 178C of Chapter 6 the crimes of indecent assault and battery on a

vulnerable person in custody by law enforcement, indecent assault and battery on a patient or client by a health care provider and rape of a patient or client by a health care provider. It also adds to this definition the crimes of indecent assault and battery on a passenger by a rideshare operator and rape of a passenger by a rideshare operator which are created by Sections 7 and 8 of this legislation, respectively.

Sections 3 & 4 - Add to the definition of “sexual offense” in Section 1 of Chapter 123A the crimes of indecent assault and battery on a vulnerable person in custody by law enforcement, indecent assault and battery on a patient or client by a health care provider and rape of a patient or client by a health care provider. It also adds to this definition the crimes of indecent assault and battery on a passenger by a rideshare operator and rape of a passenger by a rideshare operator which are created by Sections 7 and 8 of this legislation, respectively.

Sections 5 & 6 - Add to the definition of “sex offense” in Section 133E of Chapter 127 the crimes of indecent assault and battery on a vulnerable person in custody by law enforcement, indecent assault and battery on a patient or client by a health care provider and rape of a patient or client by a health care provider. It also adds to this definition the crimes of indecent assault and battery on a passenger by a rideshare operator and rape of a passenger by a rideshare operator which are created by Sections 7 and 8 of this legislation, respectively.

Section 7 – Adds a new Section 13I to Chapter 265 punishing a person who is, or holds themselves out to be, a rideshare operator who commits an indecent assault and battery on a passenger during a ride with up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction. The passenger is deemed incapable of consenting to sexual contact if consent is procured during the ride.

Section 8 – Adds a new Section 22E to Chapter 265 punishing a person who is, or holds themselves out to be, a rideshare operator who engages in sexual intercourse with a passenger during a ride with up to 20 years in state prison. The passenger is deemed incapable of consenting to sexual contact if consent is procured during the ride.

Section 9 – Adds the crime of rape of a passenger by a rideshare operator to the list of sexual offenses involving minors which all have a 27-year statute of limitations in Section 63 of Chapter 277.

Section 10 – Adds the crime of indecent assault and battery on a passenger by a rideshare operator to the list of enhanced indecent assault crimes with suspended statutes of limitations for victims under 16 years old in Section 63 of Chapter 277.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

<b>BILL NO.</b>	<b>H1713</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	An Act to protect victims of rape and children conceived during the commission of said offense
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Rep. Colleen M. Garry
<b>COSPONSORS:</b>	None
<b>HEARING DATE:</b>	June 17, 2025
<b>PRIOR HISTORY:</b>	H1509 (2023-2024) H.1581 (2021-2022) H.3882 (2019-2020)
<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	None
<b>CURRENT LAW:</b>	<p>Section 38 of Chapter 209 requires the court when issuing any temporary or permanent custody order to consider evidence of past or present abuse toward the parent or child as a factor contrary to the best interest of the child. A finding, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a pattern or serious incident of abuse has occurred creates a rebuttable presumption that custody with the abusive parent is not in the best interest of the child.</p> <p>Section 10 of Chapter 209C permits a court to award custody of a nonmarital child to either parent or another suitable person as may be appropriate in the best interests of the child. It lays out the procedures and standards for making these determinations including the requirement to consider evidence of past or present abuse toward the parent or child as a factor contrary to the best interest of the child. A finding, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a pattern or serious incident of abuse has occurred creates a rebuttable presumption that custody with the abusive parent is not in the best interest of the child.</p>
<b>BILL SUMMARY:</b>	Section 1 – Creates a new Section 39 to Chapter 209 permitting a married women to file a petition at any time with the court to terminate her husband’s parental rights and such rights will be terminated if the court determines by clear and convincing evidence

that the child of the marriage was conceived from an act of rape. There is a further presumption that termination of parental rights is in the best interest of the child if the child was conceived because of unlawful sexual battery which may be proved by a guilty plea or conviction of unlawful sexual battery.

Section 2 – Creates a new Section 1A in Chapter 209C permitting the mother of a child conceived of rape to file a petition at any time with the court to terminate the perpetrator's parental rights and such rights will be terminated if the court determines by clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived from an act of rape. There is a further presumption that termination of parental rights is in the best interest of the child if the child was conceived because of unlawful sexual battery which may be proved by a guilty plea or conviction of unlawful sexual battery.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1731

**TITLE:** An Act amending the victim of violent crime compensation law

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon

**CO-SPONSOR:** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1533 (2023-2024) H3311 (2019-2020)  
H1619 (2021-2022) H829 (2017-2018)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 2 of Chapter 258C of the General Laws permits compensation to be paid under the chapter only if: (i) the division of victim compensation and assistance finds that a crime was committed and directly resulted in physical or psychological injury to, or death of, the victim; (ii) the claimant shows the crime was reported in a timely matter to law enforcement or that there was good cause for the delay in reporting; and (iii) the claimant cooperated with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of the crime. Compensation will not be provided if it would unjustly benefit the offender or may be reduced if the victim provoked or contributed to the injuries. Reasonable attorneys' fees may also be paid by the division.

Section 5 of Chapter 258C requires a claim for compensation under the chapter be filed within 3 years of the date of the crime.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds language to Section 2 of Chapter 258C that a claimant who was sexually abused as a minor may show good cause to delay reporting to law enforcement by submitting a report of a mental health professional stating that the claimant failed to make the connection between the sexual abuse and harm caused.

Section 2 – Adds language to Section 5 of Chapter 258C that in the case of a claimant who was sexually abused as a minor the three years deadline will begin when the claiming first makes a connection between the sexual abuse and the resulting harm. The

report of a mental health professional stating an opinion as to the date the claimant made this connection and that the claimant failed to make the connection between the sexual abuse and harm caused.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1732

**TITLE:** An Act amending statute of limitations relating to civil rights actions and criminal prosecutions for sexual assault and rape of a child

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Natalie M. Blais

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1536 (2023-2024)  
H1617(2021-2022)  
H3309 (2019-2020)  
H3060 (2017-2018)

**SENATE BILL:** S1165 (Lovely)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 4C of Chapter 260 of the General Laws sets the statute of limitations for tort actions alleging sexual abuse of a minor at 35 years after the acts alleged to have caused the injury or within 7 years from the time the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or psychological injury was caused by the alleged act. This time limit is tolled for a child until they reach 18 years of age.

Section 4C ½ of Chapter 260 sets the statute of limitations for tort actions alleging negligent supervision or conduct causing or contributing to the sexual abuse of a minor at 35 years after the acts alleged to have caused the injury or within 7 years from the time the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or psychological injury was caused by the alleged act. This time limit is tolled for a child until they reach 18 years of age.

Section 5B of Chapter 260 requires civil actions for civil rights violations be commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrues.

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 with a victim under 16 years old until the victim turns 16 or the violation is reported to law enforcement.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds to Section 5B of Chapter 260 that actions alleging employment, housing and other discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, ancestry or handicap are included within tort actions for civil rights violations. It further adds language stating that any action brought under Title IX or based on sexual assault or abuse have statutes of limitation governed by the provisions of Section 4C ½ of Chapter 260.

Section 2 – Adds to Section 63 of Chapter 277 that an action alleging indecent assault and battery or rape on a victim under 18 years of age may be filed at any time after the commission of the offense.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1733

**TITLE:** An Act relative to the age of consent in certain criminal prosecutions and civil actions for sexual assault and rape of a child.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Natalie M. Blais

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1537 (2023-2024) H3310 (2019-2020)  
H1618 (2021-2022) H3062 (2017-2018)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 21 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws defines “mandated reporter” to include public or private school teacher, educational administrator, guidance or family counselor, child care worker, person paid to care for or work with a child in any public or private facility, or home or program funded or licensed by the commonwealth that provides child care or residential services to children or that provides the services of child care resources and referral agencies, voucher management agencies or family child care systems or child care food programs, licenser of the department of early education and care or school attendance officer.

Section 13B ½ of Chapter 265 in subsection (b) punishes a mandated reporter who commits an indecent assault and battery on a child under the age of 14 by 10 years to life in state prison.

Section 23A of Chapter 265 in subsection (c) punishes a mandated reporter who rapes and abuses a child under 16 years of age by 10 years to life in state prison.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds 2 new sections to Chapter 268.

Section 21B punishes with up to 5 years in state prison or a fine of \$10,000, or both, any person employed by or contracted with a

private or public school, DYS, DCF, DMH, DDS or any private institution providing services to clients of such departments who, during or as a result of their employment or contract, engage in sexual abuse of a person either: (i) under the age of 18 or under 21 if identified as a child with special needs under Chapter 71B, who has not received a high school diploma or an equivalent document and who is served by such school, department or institution with; or (ii) under 19 years of age, has not received a high school diploma or equivalent document and attends the college or university where the defendant works. In a prosecution under the section the individual served by the school, department or institution is deemed incapable of consent to sexual relations with the defendant.

Section 21C provides a civil cause of action against the employee or contractor who perpetrated the abuse under Section 21B.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

<b>BILL NO.</b>	<b>H1734</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	An Act relative to preventing educator sexual misconduct and abuse of children and youth.
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon
<b>COSPONSOR(S):</b>	Rep. Natalie M. Blais
<b>HEARING DATE:</b>	June 17, 2025
<b>PRIOR HISTORY:</b>	H1538 (2023-2024) H1620 (2021-2022)
<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	None
<b>CURRENT LAW:</b>	<p>Section 21 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws defines “mandated reporter” to include public or private school teacher, educational administrator, guidance or family counselor, child care worker, person paid to care for or work with a child in any public or private facility, or home or program funded or licensed by the commonwealth that provides child care or residential services to children or that provides the services of child care resources and referral agencies, voucher management agencies or family child care systems or child care food programs, licenser of the department of early education and care or school attendance officer.</p> <p>Section 13B ½ of Chapter 265 in subsection (b) punishes a mandated reporter who commits an indecent assault and battery on a child under the age of 14 by 10 years to life in state prison.</p> <p>Section 23A of Chapter 265 in subsection (c) punishes a mandated reporter who rapes and abuses a child under 16 years of age by 10 years to life in state prison.</p>
<b>BILL SUMMARY:</b>	Section 1 – Adds Section 21C to Chapter 268 providing a civil cause of action against the employee or contractor who perpetrated the abuse under the new Section 21B created in Section 2 of this legislation.

Section 2 – Adds Section 21B to Chapter 268 punishing with up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or a fine of \$10,000, or both fine and incarceration, any person over 21 years of age employed by or contracted with a private or public school, DYS, DCF, DMH, DDS or any private institution providing services to clients of such departments who, during or as a result of their employment or contract, engage in sexual abuse of a person either: (i) under 19 years of age, has not received a high school diploma or equivalent document and is served by the school, department or institution; or (ii) under the age of 22, has special needs under Chapter 71B, has not received a high school diploma or an equivalent document and is served by such school, department or institution. Registration as a sex offender is required and any teaching certificate or professional license will be revoked. In a prosecution under the section the individual served by the school, department or institution is deemed incapable of consent to sexual relations with the defendant.

**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.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1750

**TITLE:** An Act to protect victims of stalking in violation of harassment prevention orders.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Kate Hogan

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Adrienne Pusateri Ramos

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1551 (2023-2024)  
H1658 (2021-2022)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 7 of Chapter 209A of the General Laws requires a Court to transmit two copies of an order requiring a defendant to vacate, refrain from abusing the plaintiff or to have no contact with the plaintiff or the plaintiff's minor child to law enforcement officials for service on the defendant.

Section 9 of Chapter 258E of the General Laws requires the Court to send Harassment or No Contact Orders to law enforcement officials, who must also serve any outstanding warrant for abuse and a finding of likely bodily injury as soon as practicable.

Section 43 of Chapter 265 criminalizes stalking, defined as willful conduct directed at a specific person that seriously alarms or annoys said person and makes a threat to place them in fear of harm.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a requirement to Section 7 of Chapter 209A for law enforcement to notify the victim when notice has been served and if service has not been completed, inform the victim every 24 hours until service is complete.

Section 2 - Adds a requirement to Section 9 of Chapter 258E for law enforcement to notify the victim when notice has been served and if service has not been completed, inform the victim every 24 hours until service is complete.

Section 3 – Adds harassment prevention orders to the list of sentence enhancers for stalking under Section 43 of Chapter 265 despite an order preventing contact.

Section 4 – Adds violations of Chapter 258E to the list of sentence enhancers for stalking under Section 43 of Chapter 265 despite an order preventing contact.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1779

**TITLE:** An Act relative to school bus stop safety.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson  
Rep. Paul K. Frost  
Rep. Todd M. Smola

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1569 (2023-2024)  
H1695(2021-2022)  
H1460 (2019-2020)  
H2293 (2017-2018)  
H1410 (2015-2016)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178K of Chapter 6 creates the sex offender registry board. The board is staffed by seven members who shall be appointed by the governor for terms of six years. The board is responsible for making guidelines including three levels of notification based on risk of re-offense and degree of dangerousness posed to the public. Sex offenders classified as a level 3 offender may not establish living conditions within any dwelling where the aged, infirm or mentally retarded reside punishable by up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both fine and incarceration.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a new Section 47A to Chapter 265 prohibiting any sex offender classified as a level 2 or level 3 offender from loitering within 500 feet of a school bus stop for as long as they are obligated to register. Remaining in the prohibited location for more than 15 minutes constitutes loitering. A first offense is punishable by a \$500 fine and a second offense is punishable by up to 3 months in a house of correction or a \$100 fine, or both. A third or subsequent offense is punishable by 3 months to 2.5 years in a house of correction and a fine of \$1,500.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1780

**TITLE:** An Act relative to identifying costs associated with legal counsel for classification hearings.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson  
Rep. Paul K. Frost  
Rep. Todd M. Smola

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1579 (2023-2024)  
H1694 (2021-2022)  
H1465 (2019-2020)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178D of Chapter 6 establishes the sex offender registry board which requires every sex offender to register with registration data consisting of name, aliases used, date and place of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color, social security number, home address, any secondary addresses and work address and, if the sex offender works at or attends an institution of higher learning, the name and address of the institution, photograph, fingerprints and a description of the offense. It also creates an online registry that publishes the following information for offenders: (i) the name of the sex offender; (ii) the offender's home address and any secondary addresses; (iii) the offender's work address; (iv) the offense for which the offender was convicted or adjudicated and the date of the conviction or adjudication; (v) the sex offender's age, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color; (vi) a photograph of the sex offender, if available; (vii) whether the sex offender has been designated a sexually violent predator; and (viii) whether the offender is in compliance with the registration obligations of sections 178C to 178P, inclusive.

Section 178K of Chapter 6 creates the sex offender registry board. The board is staffed by seven members who shall be appointed by the governor for terms of six years. The board is responsible for making guidelines including three levels of notification based on risk of re-offense and degree of dangerousness posed to the public.

Section 178L of Chapter 6 provides any person aggrieved by the board's sex offender classification recommendation a right to petition the board to request an evidentiary hearing to challenge said classification. Counsel will be appointed to the person if they are found to be indigent and the board may further grant payment of fees for an expert witness if necessary.

Section 178Q of Chapter 6 requires the sex offender registry board (SORB) assess every sex offender a \$75 registration fee paid upon initial registration and annually thereafter until termination as a sex offender. No fee if there is ongoing challenge on duty to register or other legal remedy is being sought. Waiver is permitted if SORB finds the payment to be an undue hardship.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Establishes a commission charged with studying the cost of providing counsel for sex offender classification hearings.

Section 2 – The commission consists of 14 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on judiciary, one member of the committee to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate, one member of the committee to be appointed by the minority leader of the house, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on public safety and homeland security, one member of the committee to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate, one member of the committee appointed by the minority leader of the house, two members appointed by the attorney general, two members appointed by the appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and two members appointed by the governor.

Sections 3 & 4 – Charge the commission with measuring the cost annually of providing counsel at these hearings and with submitting a report within a year of the acts passage to the joint committee on transportation.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1781

**TITLE:** An Act relative to the release of sex offender information to victims.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson  
Rep. Paul K. Frost  
Rep. Todd M. Smola  
Rep. Hannah Kane  
Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida  
Rep. Steven George Xiarhos

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1580 (2023-2024)  
H1691 (2021-2022)  
H1457 (2019-2020)  
H2299 (2017-2018)  
H1407 (2015-2016)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178D of Chapter 6 establishes the sex offender registry board which requires every sex offender to register with registration data consisting of name, aliases used, date and place of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color, social security number, home address, any secondary addresses and work address and, if the sex offender works at or attends an institution of higher learning, the name and address of the institution, photograph, fingerprints and a description of the offense. It also creates an online registry that publishes the following information for offenders: (i) the name of the sex offender; (ii) the offender's home address and any secondary addresses; (iii) the offender's work address; (iv) the offense for which the offender was convicted or adjudicated and the date of the conviction or adjudication; (v) the sex offender's age, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color; (vi) a photograph of the sex offender, if available; (vii) whether the sex offender has been designated a sexually violent predator; and (viii) whether the offender is in compliance with the registration obligations of sections 178C to 178P, inclusive.

Section 178I of Chapter 6 of the General Laws permits a person to receive at no cost from the sex offender registry board a report indicating whether an individual is a sex offender with an obligation to register if the requestor is an adult and requesting the information for their own protection or for the protection of a minor or other person in their care or custody. The report will include information on the offenses for which the offender was convicted or adjudicated. This information is only made available for level 2 or level 3 sex offenders. The board is prohibited from releasing information identifying the victim by name, address or relation to the offender.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds to Section 178I of Chapter 6 that the board is required to provide to a victim upon request the offender’s final classification, home address, secondary address, work address and where they attend school.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1783

**TITLE:** An Act removing state funded counsel for sex offender classification hearings.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Paul K. Frost Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson  
Rep. Todd M. Smola Rep. David F. DeCoste  
Rep. David K. Muradian, Jr. Rep. Hannah Kane  
Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1585 (2023-2024)  
H1678(2021-2022)  
H1452 (2019-2020)  
H2300 (2017-2018)  
H1406 (2015-2016)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178L of Chapter 6 of the General Laws provides any person aggrieved by the board’s sex offender classification recommendation a right to petition the board to request an evidentiary hearing to challenge said classification. Counsel will be appointed to the person if they are found to be indigent and the board may further grant payment of fees for an expert witness if necessary.

Section 178M of Chapter 6 permits sex offenders to seek judicial review of final classifications and have counsel with them or appointed if the offender is deemed indigent.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Sections 1, 2, and 3 – Remove from Section 178L of Chapter 6 all references to an offender’s right to appointed counsel if indigent.

Section 4 - Removes from Section 178M of Chapter 6 language requiring the court appoint counsel to represent an indigent sex offender.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1786

**TITLE:** An Act prohibiting level 3 sex offenders from residing together.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Paul K. Frost  
Rep. Todd M. Smola  
Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1584 (2023-2024)  
H1680 (2021-2022)  
H3335 (2019-2020)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178K of Chapter 6 of the General Laws creates the sex offender registry board. The board is staffed by seven members who shall be appointed by the governor for terms of six years. The board is responsible for making guidelines including three levels of notification based on risk of re-offense and degree of dangerousness posed to the public. Sex offenders classified as level 3 offenders may not establish living conditions within any dwelling where the aged, infirm or mentally retarded reside punishable by up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both fine and incarceration.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a new Section 48A to Chapter 265 prohibiting level 3 sex offenders from renting, residing or occupying a single-family dwelling unit or unit in a multi-family dwelling together. There is an exception for those related by consanguinity, affinity or adoption. Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment in a house of corrections for up to 2.5 years.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1790

**TITLE:** An Act protecting children from domestic violence

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Bradley Jones

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson  
Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida  
Rep. Hannah Kane  
Rep. Paul Frost  
Rep. Todd Smola

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1588 (2023-2024)  
H1685 (2021-2022)  
H3341 (2019-2020)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 13A Chapter 265 of the General Laws makes assault and battery a crime punishable by 2.5 years in a house of correction or a \$1,000 fine or if it causes serious bodily injury punishment may be elevated to 5 years in state prison.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds to Section 13A of Chapter 265 that an assault or assault and battery on a victim within a dwelling in the presence of a child under 16 years of age is punishable by up to 5 years in state prison, up to 2 ½ years in a house or correction or by a fine of no more than \$5,000, or by both fine and incarceration. It also requires the law enforcement agency filing the charges to provide the department of social services with a notice of the charges to be used at the department’s discretion.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1808

**TITLE:** An Act maintaining the integrity of sex offender classifications.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Patrick Joseph Kearney

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1595 (2023-2024)  
H1704 (2021-2022)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178L of Chapter 6 provides any person aggrieved by the board's sex offender classification recommendation a right to petition the board to request an evidentiary hearing to challenge said classification. Counsel will be appointed to the person if they are found to be indigent and the board may further grant payment of fees for an expert witness if necessary. The hearing will determine by a preponderance of evidence the sex offender's duty to register and final classification. The board may seek reclassification on their own initiative or upon the written request of a police department or district attorney if new evidence relevant to the determination of a risk of re-offense or degree of dangerous is received.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds to Section 178L of Chapter 6 that for offender-initiated motions for reclassification the offender bears the burden of showing by clear and convincing evidence that their risk of re-offense and degree of dangerousness posed to the public have decreased following their final classification.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1829

**TITLE:** An act eliminating the statute of limitations in civil child sexual abuse cases

**SPONSOR:** Rep. John J. Lawn, Jr.  
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**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Natalie Blais

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1614 (2023-2024)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 4C of Chapter 260 of the General Laws sets the statute of limitations for tort actions alleging sexual abuse of a minor at 35 years after the acts alleged to have caused the injury or within 7 years from the time the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or psychological injury was caused by the alleged act. This time limit is tolled for a child until they reach 18 years of age.

Section 4C ½ of Chapter 260 sets the statute of limitations for tort actions alleging negligent supervision or conduct causing or contributing to the sexual abuse of a minor at 35 years after the acts alleged to have caused the injury or within 7 years from the time the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or psychological injury was caused by the alleged act. This time limit is tolled for a child until they reach 18 years of age.

**SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Amends Section 4C of Chapter 260 to provide an unlimited statute of limitations for actions of tort alleging sexual abuse of a minor.

Section 2 – Amends Section 4C ½ of Chapter 260 to provide an unlimited statute of limitations for actions of tort alleging negligent supervision or conduct causing or contributing to the sexual abuse of a minor.

Section 3 - States that sections 4C and 4C ½ of Chapter 260 shall apply regardless of when acts alleged in violation of these sections occurred, including acts that occurred before the effective date of

this Act but restricts damage awards for actions against entities who employed or supervised the person who allegedly violated these sections before the effective date of the act to only when a finding of negligence on the part of the entity is entered.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1830

**TITLE:** An Act relative to governmental and charitable tort liability.

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

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 85K of Chapter 231 limits the tort liability of certain charitable organizations and the directors, officers or trustees of educational institutions. The liability of charitable corporations, trusts and organizations is capped at \$20,000 for any cause of action stemming from an act committed in the course of an activity done to directly accomplish the charitable purpose of the corporation, trust or association. Liability for medical malpractice claims against nonprofit organizations providing health care is capped at \$1000,000. This cap on charitable liability does not apply if the action was committed in the course of activities primarily commercial in character despite them being done to obtain revenue to be used for charitable purposes. Volunteer directors, officers and trustees of non-profit educational institutions have immunity from tort liability if acting in good faith and within the scope of official functions and duties to damages or injuries unless caused by willful or wanton misconduct. None of the liability limits in this section apply to any motor vehicle case.

Section 2 of Chapter 258 limits the tort liability for public employers to a maximum of \$100,000 for the wrongful act or omission of a public employee while acting within the scope of their employment with an exception for claims for serious bodily injury against the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Section 10 of Chapter 258 lists situations where a public employer is immune from liability. These include: (i) discretionary functions or duties; (ii) tax collection or assessments; (iii) actions on permits or licenses; (iv) failure to establish emergency services or provide adequate police or fire protection; and (v) changes to the carceral

status of any person in public custody unless gross negligence is shown.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds to Section 85K of Chapter 231 an exception to the tort liability cap for charities claims of sexual abuse of a minor.

Section 2 – Adds to Section 2 of Chapter 258 an exception to the tort liability cap for public employers for all claims of sexual abuse of a minor.

Section 3 – Adds to Section 10 of Chapter 258 an exception to immunity for any claims of sexual abuse of a minor by a public employee or contractor.

**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.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1832

**TITLE:** An Act relative to preventing the sexual abuse of children and youth.

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

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Natalie M. Blais  
Sen. Joanne M. Comerford

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 168E of Chapter 6 of the General Laws requires all public or independent institutions of higher education to adopt policies on sexual misconduct involving students and employees consistent with Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972.

Chapter 69 of the General Laws sets the power and duties of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Section 6 sets the requirements and standards for applying for the position of teacher including good moral character.

Section 21 of Chapter 119 defines “mandated reporter” to include public or private school teacher, educational administrator, guidance or family counselor, child care worker, person paid to care for or work with a child in any public or private facility, or home or program funded or licensed by the commonwealth that provides child care or residential services to children or that provides the services of child care resources and referral agencies, voucher management agencies or family child care systems or child care food programs, licenser of the department of early education and care or school attendance officer.

Section 51A of Chapter 119 requires mandated reporters to immediately contact the department and within 48 hours file a written report with the department if they suspect a child is suffering abuse or neglect. Violations of this section may result in fines or, if serious bodily injury or death of a child results or there are multiple violations, incarceration.

Section 85K of Chapter 231 limits the tort liability of certain charitable organizations and the directors, officers or trustees of educational institutions. It limits the liability of charitable corporations, trusts and organizations to \$20,000 for any cause of action stemming from an act committed in the course of an activity done to directly accomplish the charitable purpose of the corporation, trust or association. Liability for medical malpractice claims against nonprofit organizations providing health care is limited to \$100,000. This cap on charitable liability does not apply if the action was committed in the course of activities primarily commercial in character despite them being done to obtain revenue to be used for charitable purposes. The section further limits the liability of volunteer directors, officers and trustees of non-profit educational institutions acting in good faith and within the scope of official functions and duties to damages or injuries unless caused by willful or wanton misconduct. None of the liability limits in this section apply to any motor vehicle case.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Names the Act the Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act of 2025.

Section 2 – Adds a new Chapter to the General Laws on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.

- Adds a section with definitions of “abuse,” “child,” “direct contact with children,” “job performance,” “school” and “sexual misconduct.” A “school” includes any public, private, independent or parochial school and special education school program in the Commonwealth.
- Requires every school, state-licensed program that provides educational services and every youth-serving organization provide mandatory yearly instruction on the prevention, identification and reporting of child sexual abuse to all employees, contractors and volunteers.
- Requires every school, state-licensed program that provides educational services and every youth-serving organization provide age-appropriate instruction to the students, children and youth they serve on recognizing and reporting inappropriate behavior, developing and communicating respectful body boundaries and privacy rules and the resources available to prevent and respond to sexual abuse.
- Prohibits school and independent contractors from offering employment to anyone unless they provide permission for full disclosure of all records on their employment histories and an investigation into any prior misconduct and discipline allegations. All schools or prior employment must provide the information requested and may not be held liable for this

disclosure. No contracts or collective bargaining agreements may be made that suppress the release of this information.

- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has jurisdiction to investigate and penalize for willful violations of the Act. Violations may result in fines, civil liability or professional censure. During its investigations it has the power to request any information and documents necessary for any public or private school in the Commonwealth and may subpoena to compel their production. It shall report any required information to the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification Clearinghouse.
- Any person who files a complaint, reports wrongdoing or aids in the investigation is immune from liability if they act in good faith and without malice.

Sections 3 to 5 – Update the definition of “mandated reporter” in Section 21 of Chapter 119 to include domestic violence workers, volunteer and professional athletic coaches, professional tutors, animal control or humane officers, commercial film or photo processors and information technology repair or service personnel.

Section 6 – Adds to Section 51A of Chapter 119 that the same reporting obligations of the section apply to any school or mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that there is a credible threat to a minor by a person alleged to have sexually abused a child in the past.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1833

**TITLE:** An Act enhancing remedies for survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

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

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1169 (Lovely)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 85K of Chapter 231 limits the tort liability of certain charitable organizations and the directors, officers or trustees of educational institutions. The liability of charitable corporations, trusts and organizations is capped at \$20,000 for any cause of action stemming from an act committed in the course of an activity done to directly accomplish the charitable purpose of the corporation, trust or association. Liability for medical malpractice claims against nonprofit organizations providing health care is capped at \$1000,000. This cap on charitable liability does not apply if the action was committed in the course of activities primarily commercial in character despite them being done to obtain revenue to be used for charitable purposes. Volunteer directors, officers and trustees of non-profit educational institutions have immunity from tort liability if acting in good faith and within the scope of official functions and duties to damages or injuries unless caused by willful or wanton misconduct. None of the liability limits in this section apply to any motor vehicle case.

Section 2 of Chapter 258 limits the tort liability for public employers to a maximum of \$100,000 for the wrongful act or omission of a public employee while acting within the scope of their employment with an exception for claims for serious bodily injury against the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Section 10 of Chapter 258 lists situations where a public employer is immune from liability. These include: (i) discretionary functions or duties; (ii) tax collection or assessments; (iii) actions on permits or licenses; (iv) failure to establish emergency services or provide

adequate police or fire protection; and (v) changes to the carceral status of any person in public custody unless gross negligence is shown.

Section 4C of Chapter 260 requires claims of sexual abuse of a minor be brought within 35 years of the acts or within 7 years of when the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or psychological injury or condition was caused by the act, whichever period expires later. This time limitation is tolled for a child until the child reaches 18 years of age. It then lists the Sections of the General Laws that include acts of sexual abuse of a minor.

Section 4C ½ of chapter 260 requires claims of negligent supervision of a person who sexually abused a minor or whose conduct contributed to the sexual abuse of a minor be brought within 35 years of the acts or within 7 years of when the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or psychological injury or condition was caused by the act, whichever period expires later. This time limitation is tolled for a child until the child reaches 18 years of age. It then references Section 4C for the crimes affected.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds to Section 85K of Chapter 231 an exception to the tort liability cap for charities when the claim is of sexual abuse of a minor.

Section 2 – Adds to Section 2 of Chapter 258 an exception to the tort liability cap for public employers for all claims of sexual abuse of a minor.

Section 3 – Adds to Section 10 of Chapter 258 an exception to its immunity for any claims of sexual abuse of a minor by a public employee or contractor.

Sections 4 & 5– Remove language from Sections 4C and 4C ½ of Chapter 260 setting any statute of limitations for sexual abuse of a minor or negligent supervision of a person who sexually abused a minor or whose conduct contributed to the sexual abuse of a minor.

Section 6 – States that Sections 4C and 4C ½ apply regardless of when the acts occurred or if they would otherwise be barred by time under the law. A finding of negligence by the employment or supervisory entity is required for damage awards in actions barred by time prior to the effective date of the Act.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1896

**TITLE:** An Act providing for the allowance of early evidence kits.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Samantha Montaña

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1079 (Edwards)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 18Y of Chapter 6A of the General Laws instructs law enforcement agencies, medical facilities, crime laboratories, and any other facilities that receive, maintain, store or preserve sexual assault evidence kits to submit annual reports concerning: (i) the total number of all kits containing forensic samples collected or received; (ii) the date of collection or receipt of each kit; (iii) the category of each kit; (iv) the sexual assault that was reported to law enforcement; (v) whether or not the victim chose not to file a report with law enforcement (non-investigatory); (vi) the status of the kit; (vii) the total number of all kits remaining in possession of the medical facility, law enforcement or laboratory and all reasons for any kit in possession for more than 30 days; (viii) the total number of kits destroyed by medical facilities, law enforcement or laboratories, and reason for destruction; (ix) in the case of a medical facility, the date the kit was collected, the date the kit was reported to law enforcement and the date the kit was picked up by law enforcement; (x) in the case of law enforcement, the date the kit was picked up from a medical facility, the date the kit was delivered to the crime laboratory and, for kits belonging to another jurisdiction, the date that the jurisdiction was notified and the date it was picked up; and (xi) in the case of crime laboratories the date the kit was received, from which agency the kit was received, the date the kit was tested, the date the resulting information was entered into CODIS and the state DNA databases and all reasons a kit was not tested or a DNA profile was not created.

Section 97B of Chapter 41 requires police departments to have a rape reporting and prosecution unit, designed to improve the quality of rape reporting, counselling and prosecution. Officers in the unit

must complete appropriate trainings and each department must make an effort to employ women in the units. Officers in the unit must be trained in the use of a standardized collection kit for evidence in rape cases. Hospitals must inform victims that the kit will be preserved for not less than 15 years. Any governmental body in possession of forensic evidence collected during a rape or sexual assault investigation must retain and properly preserve the evidence for the length of the crime's statute of limitations and at a minimum for 15 years. The director of the crime laboratory within the department of state police and the forensic science advisory board must promulgate regulations on the retention and preservation of forensic evidence.

Section 97B1/2 of Chapter 41 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 required to take possession of this evidence within 3 days of notice and submit investigatory evidence to a crime laboratory in the state police or the police department of a municipality where the crime took place if it has a population of over 150,000 people and operates a crime laboratory. 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 requires the crime laboratory to: (i) test the evidence within 30 days; (ii) submit any resulting DNA profile to CODIS and the state DNA database; and (iii) enter all sexual assault evidence kits into the statewide sexual assault evidence kit tracking system.

Section 79 of Chapter 233 makes records kept in accordance with the General Laws by hospitals, dispensaries, clinics and sanatoria admissible in court and permits for records which a court finds are required to be kept by the laws of any other state or territory, the District of Columbia or by the laws and regulations of the United States of America to be admitted at the courts discretion.

Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018 "An Act relative to criminal justice reform" included:

- Section 214 which required all unsubmitted investigatory sexual assault evidence kits containing forensic samples collected during a medical forensic exam be submitted to law enforcement and all non-investigatory kits be submitted to crime laboratories. Law enforcement agencies were required to submit the kits for testing within 180 days of enactment.
- Section 215 which required that by December 1, 2019 statewide policies and procedures for law enforcement by adopted concerning contact with victims and notification concerning

sexual assault evidence kits. These policies must designate a person within each agency to liaise with victims and respond to inquiries concerning sexual assault evidence kits. It further provided victims of sexual assault rights to consult with victim advocates, request information on a kit, be informed of case changes, designate a person to receive information on their behalf and be informed of how to request future testing of a kit and their right to apply for victim compensation.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds a new Section 18Z to Chapter 6 which defines “Sexual assault evidence collection kit” as physical evidence collected by a qualified health care provider from the body or clothing of a person and “Early Evidence Kits” as services that help collection and storage of DNA when a traditional sexual forensic exam is not possible.

Section 2 – Adds to Section 79 of Chapter 233 a definition for “Hospital” as a hospital licensed or certified by the department pursuant to applicable law and the teaching hospital of the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Section 3 – Amends Section 97B of Chapter 41 to: (i) require no kits be destroyed unless the case for which the evidence was collected resulted in a conviction and the sentence has been completed, all suspects identified by testing a sexual assault evidence collection kit are deceased or the length of the statute of limitations has run; (ii) require law enforcement notify the victim upon request no later than 60 days before the date of intended destruction or disposal of the evidence or retain the evidence for 12 months longer than the time period specified or an agreed upon time frame between law enforcement and the victim; (iii) instruct the director of the crime laboratory within the department of state police and the forensic sciences advisory board to promulgate regulations on the guidance on the use of early evidence kits.

Section 4 – Adds to Section 97B ½ of Chapter 41 a requirement that a health care provider who performs a sexual assault collection kit exam provide the alleged victim with contact information for the investigating law enforcement agency that the victim may contact about the status and results of the kit analysis, written information describing the laws and policies governing the testing, preservation, and disposal of a sexual assault evidence collection kit, all available results of the kit analysis except results that would impede or compromise an ongoing investigation and contact information for the investigating law enforcement agency that the victim may contact about the status and results of the kit analysis.

Section 5 – Adds to Section 97B1/2 of Chapter 41: (i) a requirement that the crime labs listed test all sexual assault kits within 30 days of receipt; (ii) permission for a crime lab in a municipality of less than 150,000 person to accept self-administered sexual assault evidence kits and test them within 30 days; (iii) permission for the transfer of early evidence kits to a law enforcement agency by a hospital or a child advocacy center within 30 days after the exam or by a government agency in possession of a kit; (iv) a requirement for the law enforcement agency to distinctly label evidence kits collected by alleged victims and permission for them to test the kit; and (v) a requirement that law enforcement agencies to provide the victim with information about the status of the kit analysis and available results of the kit analysis except results that would impede or compromise an ongoing investigation upon request by the victim.

Section 6 – Adds to Section 214 of Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018 a general permission for early evidence collection kits to be submitted to forensic laboratories for analysis unless there is clear evidence disproving the allegation of sexual assault, as alleged there are insufficient facts to create a violation of the criminal law, the alleged victim declines to give consent, or the suspect has already had their DNA collected for the incident and pled guilty.

Section 7 – Adds to Section 215 a right for victims to remain anonymous and not file a criminal complaint and to be informed of their right to file a criminal complaint at a future time.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1917

**TITLE:** An Act to ensure fair access to compensation for victims of human trafficking and forced labor.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Tram T. Nguyen

**CO-SPONSOR(S):** Sen. Lydia Edwards Rep. Mark C. Montigny  
Rep. Patrick J. Kearney Rep. Steven J. Ouellette

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1706 (2023-2024)

**SENATE BILL:** S1186 (Montigny)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 1 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws defines terms for the chapter which establishes the rules and procedures for labor and industries in the Commonwealth.

Section 3 of Chapter 258C states that the maximum award for compensation of victims of violent crimes under the chapter is \$25,000 unless the claimant has a catastrophic injury where the maximum amount is \$50,000. The section outlines the proof required for claiming losses including: (i) funeral, burial or internment expenses; (ii) out-of-pocket medical expenses; (iii) mental health counseling; and (iv) loss of actual earnings.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds to Section 1 of Chapter 149 a definition for “victim of human trafficking” which provides that it is a person subjected to conduct prohibited by Sections 50 or 51 of Chapter 265 or a victim of “severe forms of trafficking in persons” under 22 U.S.C. 7102.

Section 2 – Adds a new Section 204 to Chapter 149 making victims of human trafficking eligible for compensation up to \$25,000 from the division of victim compensation and assistance within the department of the attorney general for lost income resulting from their deprivation of liberty. Victims will be eligible for this compensation even if they lack any official employment documentation or have a criminal history or alleged contributory conduct resulting from victimization.

Section 3 – Adds to Section 3 of Chapter 258C language permitting evidence other than official employment documentation to be considered when compensating a victim of human trafficking for

lost income. This compensation may be the result of a deprivation of liberty during the crime and will be calculated based on Massachusetts minimum wage at the time of the trafficking conduct.

Section 4 – Adds to Section 3 of Chapter 258C language giving the division of victim compensation and assistance permission to authorize cash payments for job retaining or similar employment-oriented services to compensate a victim of human trafficking for lost income which may include compensation: (i) for lost income directly resulting from the injury for up to 7 years following the date of the crime unless the injury rendered the victim disabled; (ii) to a minor victim if eligible to receive compensation upon reaching 18 years of age; or (iii) to the parent or legal guardian of a minor victim who died or is hospitalized as a result of the crime.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
EXECUTIVE BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1921

**TITLE:** An Act relative to sexual harassment

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Tram T. Nguyen

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Samantha Montaña Rep. Steven Owens  
Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa Rep. Danilo Sena  
Senator Bruce Tarr Rep. Natalie M. Higgins  
Sen. James B. Eldridge

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1708 (2023-2024)

**SENATE BILL:** S1118 (Friedman)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 4 of Chapter 93A of the General Laws gives the Attorney General the ability to sue groups and persons who are engaged in unfair commerce or trade practices.

Chapters 151 to 151F of the General Laws govern workplace discrimination, employment healthcare, and other worker protections.

Section 4 of Chapter 151B makes certain actions and practices in the workplace unlawful, including prohibiting employers personally or through its agents, from sexually harassing any employee.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a new Chapter 151G to the General Laws entitled “Protections Against Sexual Harassment” which bans professional investors doing business in the Commonwealth from making sexual advances or requesting sexual favors when: (i) submission to or rejection of such conduct is a basis for business investment transaction decisions; or (ii) when such conduct creates a hostile work environment. A person harmed by a violation of this section may bring a court action against the unlawful actor and liability shall include compensatory damages and reasonable attorneys’ fees. The AGO may investigate potential violations and may bring enforcement actions against the unlawful actors. Actions under this section are limited by a 3-year statute of limitation.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1987

**TITLE:** An Act to establish a DNA exception rule for victims of rape

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Adam Scanlon and Rep. Hannah Kane

**COSPONSORS:** Rep. Carmine Gentile Rep. Brian Ashe  
Rep. Dennis Gallagher Rep. Brad Jones  
Sen. Michael Moore Rep. Natalie M. Higgins  
Rep. Adrienne Pusateri Ramos

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1760 (2023-2024)  
H3866 (2021-2022)

**SENATE BILL:** S1192 (Montigny)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 97B of Chapter 41 of the General Laws requires police departments to have a rape reporting and prosecution unit, designed to improve the quality of rape reporting, counselling and prosecution. Officers in the unit must complete appropriate trainings and each department must make an effort to employ women in the units. Officers in the unit must be trained in the use of a standardized collection kit for evidence in rape cases. Hospitals must inform victims that the kit will be preserved for not less than 15 years. Any governmental body in possession of forensic evidence collected during a rape or sexual assault investigation must retain and properly preserve the evidence for the length of the crime’s statute of limitation and at a minimum for 15 years. The director of the crime laboratory within the department of state police and the forensic science advisory board must promulgate regulations on the retention and preservation of forensic evidence.

Section 97B1/2 of Chapter 41 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 that is in the jurisdiction of 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.

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 limitation for enhanced indecent assault crimes with a victim under 16 years old until the victim turns 16 or the violation is reported to law enforcement.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1- Amends Section 97B1/2 of Chapter 41 to add a clause requiring law enforcement to preserve all non-investigatory sexual assault evidence kits, for victims who have not yet filed a report, for at least 15 years.

Section 2- Amends Section 97B1/2 of Chapter 41 to ensure that law enforcement tests all sexual assault evidence kits notwithstanding the statute of limitations for the offense.

Section 3- Amends Section 63 of Chapter 277 by inserting a clause to indefinitely extend the statute of limitations for rape in a case where the identity of the person who allegedly committed the offense: (1) was identified after the limitation period set forth in this section; and (2) was established through a DNA record using evidence collected at the time of the commission of the offense

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1997

**TITLE:** An Act relative to the protection of vulnerable adults from sexual assault committed by mandated reports, persons in a position of trust and providers of transportation

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Thomas M. Stanley

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1768 (2023-2024)  
H1660 (2021-2022)  
H1438 (2019-2020)

**SENATE BILL:** S1153 (Lewis)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178C of Chapter 6 of the General Laws states the definitions applicable to the sex offender registry including a definition for “sex offense.”

Section 1 of Chapter 19C, Section 15 of Chapter 19A and Section 21 of Chapter 119 define “mandated reporter” to include health care providers, educators, childcare workers, probation and parole officers, law enforcement officers, clergy, social workers, foster parents and the child advocate.

Section 13B ½ of Chapter 265 in subsection (b) punishes a mandated reporter who commits an indecent assault and battery on a child under the age of 14 by 10 years to life in state prison.

Section 13H ½ of Chapter 265 punishes a law enforcement officer who commits an indecent assault and battery on a person 14 years or older who is in their custody or control by up to 5 years in state prison, or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction. If the person is under 14 years of age, an elder or a person with a disability the punishment is up to 10 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in a house of correction. If the person is known to the law enforcement officer as having an intellectual disability the punishment is 5 to 10 years in state prison.

Section 23A of Chapter 265 in subsection (c) punishes a mandated reporter who rapes and abuses a child under 16 years of age by 10 years to life in state prison.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds Section 22D to Chapter 265 punishing the rape of a person known to be a vulnerable adult by a mandated reporter, supervisor or transportation provider with imprisonment for not more than 20 years, and for a second or subsequent offense prison for life. An indecent assault and battery of a person known to be a vulnerable adult by a mandated reporter, supervisor or transportation provider is punishable by up to 10 years in state prison, or up to 2.5 year in a house of correction, and for a second and subsequent offense prison for up to 20 years. A vulnerable adult is defined as a person 14 years of age or older who at the time of the offense is admitted to a mental health, community based or residential facility, is a resident of a long-term care facility or is receiving community-based services through DDS or DMH or MRC.

Section 2 – Adds the new Section 22D created above to the definition of “sex offense” in Section 178C of Chapter 6.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1999

**TITLE:** An Act establishing a permanent commission to study the service standards for sexual assault and domestic violence service providers.

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

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1779 (2023-2024)  
H3841 (2021-2022)

**SENATE BILL:** S1223 (O'Connor)  
S1226 (O'Connor)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 13M of Chapter 265 of the General Laws criminalizes assault or assault and battery of a family or household member. It is punishable by up to 2.5 years in a house of correction and/or a \$5,000 fine.

Section 22 of Chapter 265 criminalizes sexual intercourse against the will of another person by force or by threat of force. It is punishable by up to life imprisonment.

Section 22A of Chapter 265 criminalizes sexual intercourse with a child under 16 years of age by force against the child's will or by threat of bodily injury. This is punishable by up to life imprisonment.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a new Section 76 to Chapter 3 creating a Commission on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Service. The Commission will be made up of 19 members: the Secretary of Health and Human Services or their designee, who shall serve as chair, the Director of the Department of Public Health Division of Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention and Services, 2 members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, a member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Minority Leader, 2 members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, a member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Minority Leader, the Executive Director of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic

Violence, the Attorney General or their designee; the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance, the Executive Director of Jane Doe Inc.; the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, the Executive Director of the Victim Rights Law Center, Inc., the Executive Director of the New Bedford Women's Center, Inc., the Executive Director of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Inc., the Executive Director of Pathways for Change, Inc., an advocate specialized in working with survivors with disabilities, to be appointed by the Governor, an advocate specialized in working with children who experienced trauma, to be appointed by the Governor and 3 survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence, to be appointed by the Governor. The Commission is charged with studying the practices and service standards for providers of services to address sexual assault and domestic violence, then make recommendations and reports to improve them.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H2000

**TITLE:** An Act establishing statewide standards for sexual assault and domestic violence service providers.

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

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Steven G. Xiarhos

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1780 (2023-2024)  
H3841 (2021-2022)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 13M of Chapter 265 of the General Laws criminalizes assault or assault and battery of a family or household member. It is punishable by up to 2.5 years in a house of correction and/or a \$5,000 fine.

Section 22 of Chapter 265 criminalizes sexual intercourse against the will of another person by force or by threat of force. It is punishable by up to life imprisonment.

Section 22A of Chapter 265 criminalizes sexual intercourse with a child under 16 years of age by force against the child's will or by threat of bodily injury. This is punishable by up to life imprisonment.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a Section to Chapter 3 creating a Commission on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Service. The Commission will be made up of 19 members: the Secretary of Health and Human Services or their designee, who shall serve as chair, the Director of the Department of Public Health Division of Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention and Services, 2 members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, a member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Minority Leader, 2 members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, a member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Minority Leader, the Executive Director of the Governor's Council to address sexual assault and domestic violence, the Attorney General or their designee; the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance, the Executive Director

of Jane Doe Inc.: the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, the Executive Director of the Victim Rights Law Center, Inc., the Executive Director of the New Bedford Women's Center, Inc., the Executive Director of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Inc., the Executive Director of Pathways for Change, Inc., an advocate specialized in working with survivors with disabilities, to be appointed by the Governor, an advocate specialized in working with children who experienced trauma, to be appointed by the Governor and 3 survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence, to be appointed by the Governor. The Commission is charged with studying the practices and service standards for providers of services to address sexual assault and domestic violence, then make recommendations and reports to improve them.

Section 2 – Adds a new Section to Chapter 6A that instructs the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to work with the commission from Section 1 of this bill to promulgate uniform minimum service standards for sexual assault and domestic violence providers including but not limited to: (i) initial and annual training requirements, (ii) minimum policies and procedures and (iii) continuous quality improvements. Providers who want access to state funds must meet these minimums. It requires a list of the providers who do and do not comply to be published by the commission annually.

**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.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H2006

**TITLE:** An Act strengthening sexual harassment and discrimination policies in the Commonwealth.

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

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1775 (2023-2024)  
H1885 (2021-2022)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 4 of Chapter 151B of the General Laws makes certain actions and practices in the workplace unlawful including for employers personally or through its agents, to sexually harass any employee.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a prohibition on employer retaliation against employees who report sexual harassment or discrimination, cooperate in an investigation into those issues or require signing a non-disclosure or similar agreement to gain a benefit of employment.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H2008

**TITLE:** An Act prohibiting name-changing for registered sex offenders.

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

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1774 (2023-2024)  
H1884 (2021-2022)  
H4136 (2019-2020)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178D of Chapter 6 establishes the sex offender registry board which requires every sex offender to register with registration data consisting of name, aliases used, date and place of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color, social security number, home address, any secondary addresses and work address and, if the sex offender works at or attends an institution of higher learning, the name and address of the institution, photograph, fingerprints and a description of the offense. It also creates an online registry that publishes the following information for offenders: (i) the name of the sex offender; (ii) the offender's home address and any secondary addresses; (iii) the offender's work address; (iv) the offense for which the offender was convicted or adjudicated and the date of the conviction or adjudication; (v) the sex offender's age, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color; (vi) a photograph of the sex offender, if available; (vii) whether the sex offender has been designated a sexually violent predator; and (viii) whether the offender is in compliance with the registration obligations of sections 178C to 178P, inclusive.

Section 178E of Chapter 6 establishes the methods and procedure for the Commonwealth to transmit the status and information of sex offenders to the federal government.

Section 178H of Chapter 6 establishes the punishments for a sex offender who fails to register properly.

Section 1D of Chapter 46 permits parties to a marriage to adopt either of each other's names, retain their own or adopt a hyphenated combination.

Section 12 of Chapter 210 establishes probate court jurisdiction to hear petitions for name changes and requires they be granted unless the change would be against the public interest

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds a prohibition to Section 178E of Chapter 6 preventing offenders from holding themselves out at any name other than their registered one.

Section 2 – Adds to the list of punishable violations in Section 178H of Chapter 6 a violation of the new name requirement added to Section 178E.

Section 3 - Adds a prohibition against sex offenders changing their names to Section 1D of Chapter 46.

Section 4 – Adds a prohibition against sex offenders changing their names to Section 12 of Chapter 210.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H2031

**TITLE:** An Act relative to domestic violence reports and confidentiality

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Andres X. Vargas

**COSPONSOR(S):** Sen. Jason M. Lewis                      Sen. John Velis  
Rep. Samantha Montañó                      Rep. Danillo Sena  
Rep. Mindy Domb                              Rep. Leigh Davis  
Rep. Natalie Higgins

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** S1281 (Velis)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 97D of Chapter 41 makes all reports and communications between law enforcement and victims of rape and sexual assault and of domestic abuse unavailable to the public and requires police departments to maintain these documents in a manner that will ensure their confidentiality. Exceptions are made for the victim and their attorney, prosecutors, victim-witness advocates and counselors. A violation of the section is punished by up to 1 year in a house of correction or not more a \$1,000 fine, or both.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a new Section 97D ½ to Chapter 41 establishing a task force to complete a systematic review of the laws pertaining to domestic violence and sexual assault reports and confidentiality. The task force consists of: (i) the Attorney General or a designee; (ii) the President of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association or a designee; (iii) the Colonel of the State Police or a designee; (iv) the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance or a designee; (v) 2 members appointed by the Senate President, 1 who represents domestic or sexual violence programs or have experience in the area or is a survivor; (vi) 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1 who represents domestic or sexual violence programs or have experience in the area or is a survivor; (vii) 1 member appointed by the Minority leader of the House; (viii) 1 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and (ix) 2 persons appointed by the Governor, 1 who represents domestic or sexual violence programs

or have experience in the area or is a survivor. The task force members will appoint a chair.

The task force will assess the adequacy of laws on domestic violence, sexual assault and confidentiality including Section 97D of Chapter 41, review the impact of Section 97D and develop recommendation to ensure confidentiality without protecting perpetrators. It will submit a report of findings and recommendations to the clerks of the House and Senate and Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary within 18 months of the effective date of the Act.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H2037

**TITLE:** An Act relative to domestic abuse protection, "Katherine's Law".

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Marcus S. Vaughn

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 19 of Chapter 62C of the General Laws permits granting a reasonable extension for filing a tax return as required by Chapter 62C.

Section 51A of Chapter 119 requires that mandated reporters report situations when they have reasonable cause to believe one or more of the following: (i) abuse which causes harm or substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare, including sexual abuse, (ii) neglect, including and/or (iii) physical dependence upon an addictive drug at birth. Violations of this section may result in fines or, if serious bodily injury or death of a child results or there are multiple violations, incarceration.

Section 2 of Chapter 175M makes family leave available for any of the following reasons: (i) to bond with the covered individual's child during the first 12 months after the child's birth or the first 12 months after the placement of the child for adoption or foster care with the covered individual, (ii) because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that a family member is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty in the Armed Forces or (iii) in order to care for a family member who is a covered servicemember. Medical leave is made available for anyone with a serious health condition that makes them unable to perform the functions of their position.

Section 3 of Chapter 209A provides for the following court ordered remedies to a person suffering from abuse: (i) ordering the defendant to refrain from abusing the plaintiff, (ii) ordering the defendant to refrain from contacting the plaintiff, (iii) ordering the defendant to

vacate forthwith and remain away from the household, multiple family dwelling, and workplace and/or (iv) awarding the plaintiff temporary custody of a minor child.

Section 12 of Chapter 210 establishes probate court jurisdiction to hear petitions for name changes and requires they be granted unless the change would be against the public interest.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Section 1 – Adds to Section 19 of Chapter 62C an extension for filing if within the 12 months preceding the filing deadline a court, law enforcement officer or agency or the department of children and families determines that the person or their minor child has suffered abuse.

Section 2 – Adds a section to Chapter 118E requiring MassHealth coverage for a period of up to 12 months to a person and any minor children in the person's custody if a court, law enforcement officer or agency or the department of children and families determines that the person or their minor child has suffered abuse.

Section 3 – Adds a requirement to Section 51A of Chapter 119 of training for the executive office of health and human services, in consultation with the department and the office of the child advocate, to develop an evidenced-based training curriculum and program for mandated reporters.

Sections 4 and 5 – Add to Section 2 of Chapter 175M the ability for people to take family leave in order to care for themselves or their minor child following a determination by a court, law enforcement officer or agency or the department of children and families that the individual or their minor child has suffered abuse.

Section 6 – Adds a requirement that family court not place a child in the sole or shared custody of someone who by a preponderance of the evidence standard has been determined to be abusing the child.

Section 7 – Adds to Section 12 of Chapter 210 a requirement that probate court consider a name change consistent with public interest if a court or the department of children and families has determined child has suffered abuse.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H2645

**TITLE:** An Act relative to the sex offender registry.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Daniel J. Hunt

**COSPONSOR(S):** None

**HEARING DATE:** June 17, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 178D of Chapter 6 establishes the sex offender registry board which requires every sex offender to register with registration data consisting of name, aliases used, date and place of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color, social security number, home address, any secondary addresses and work address and, if the sex offender works at or attends an institution of higher learning, the name and address of the institution, photograph, fingerprints and a description of the offense. It also creates an online registry that publishes the following information for offenders: (i) the name of the sex offender; (ii) the offender's home address and any secondary addresses; (iii) the offender's work address; (iv) the offense for which the offender was convicted or adjudicated and the date of the conviction or adjudication; (v) the sex offender's age, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color; (vi) a photograph of the sex offender, if available; (vii) whether the sex offender has been designated a sexually violent predator; and (viii) whether the offender is in compliance with the registration obligations of sections 178C to 178P, inclusive.

Section 178J of Chapter 6 establishes the procedures for requesting sex offender information and the penalties for misusing the information.

Section 178K of Chapter 6 creates the sex offender registry board. The board is staffed by seven members who shall be appointed by the governor for terms of six years.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Replaces the requirement for a photo ‘if available’ in Sections 178D, 178J and 178K with a requirement of a current color photograph.



**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

<b>BILL NO.</b>	<b>H4065</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	An Act relative to supporting survivors of domestic violence and enhancing child welfare
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Rep. David Henry A. LeBoeuf
<b>COSPONSOR(S):</b>	Rep. Patrick Kearney
<b>HEARING DATE:</b>	June 17, 2025
<b>PRIOR HISTORY:</b>	None
<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	None
<b>CURRENT LAW:</b>	<p>Section 24 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws permits a person on behalf of a child to petition juvenile court to remove the child from their home by alleging the child is: (i) without necessary and proper care and discipline; (ii) growing up in circumstances damaging to their sound character development; (iii) lacks proper attention of the parent or guardian charged with their care; or (iv) has a parent or guardian unwilling, incompetent or unavailable to provide any such care, discipline or attention. It then sets out the procedure and reasons that a child could be removed from a home in an emergency circumstance. To order an emergency removal the court must find that: (i) the child is suffering from or is in immediate danger of serious abuse or neglect; and (ii) that immediate removal of the child is necessary to protect the child from serious abuse or neglect. The court may issue an emergency order transferring custody of the child for up to 72 hours to the department of children and families or to a licensed childcare agency or any agency or other private organization licensed or otherwise authorized by law to receive and provide care for the child.</p> <p>Section 29C of Chapter 119 requires DCF to make reasonable efforts to make it possible for a child live safely with their parent or guardian in the home prior to removal and reasonable efforts to return the child to the home safely after removal. These reasonable efforts are not required in several circumstances including when the parent has subjected the child to severe or repetitive conduct of a physically or emotionally abusive nature.</p>

**BILL SUMMARY:**

Sections 1 & 2 – Add 2 new sections to Chapter 119. The new Section 29E to Chapter 119 applies to all court proceedings involving removing the child from their home for neglect. The new Section 37A applies to all DCF proceedings. Both sections add a rebuttable presumption that neglect does not include a failure of a victim of domestic violence to: (i) prevent a child from witnessing the domestic violence; (ii) leave the home in which the alleged perpetrator resides; (iii) end a relationship with the alleged perpetrator; (iv) report the domestic violence to law enforcement or DCF; or (v) seek an order a protection against the alleged perpetrator.