

Legislation related to survivors of sexual & domestic violence
2011-2012 Legislative Session

Bill No. & Title	Sponsor	Bill Summary	JDI Position	Hearing Date	Bill Status
H386/S586 An act relative to housing rights for victims of domestic violence	Rep. Ellen Story Sen. Cynthia Creem	Provides victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking with option to terminate a lease or change locks. Also, it prevents landlords from evicting or not renting to a person solely based on their status as a victim of violence.	Support <i>Priority</i>	11/1/11 Oral testimony	Joint Committee on Housing
S918 An act to establish employment leave and safety remedies to victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault	Sen. Cynthia Creem	Provides employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking with leave time to address issues related to their experience of violence. Up to 15 days leave, paid or unpaid, by employers of 50 employees or more.	Support <i>Priority</i>	7/14/11 Written testimony	Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
S827 An act relative to the commercial exploitation of people	Attorney General Martha Coakley, Rep. Eugene L. O'Flaherty, Sen. Mark C. Montigny	Creates crimes against trafficking, forced labor and sexual servitude; creates an interagency task force; focus on prosecution of pimps and those who solicit prostitution.	Support	5/18/11 Written testimony	PASSED as H3808 awaiting Gov signature
S55/H2277 An act relative to the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children	Sen. Thomas McGee	Provides for services and alternative, non-criminal interventions for youth under the age of 18, arrested for engaging in sexual conduct for a fee.	Support	5/18/11 Written testimony	PASSED as H3808 awaiting Gov signature
S679/H1292 An act relative to the definition of strangulation and suffocation	Sen. Katherine Clark Rep. Brian Dempsey	Defines strangulation and suffocation. Anyone that suffocates another can be punished for up to 5 years or a fine up to \$5,000.	Support	10/5/11 Written testimony	Joint Committee on the Judiciary Language in S2054 crime omnibus
H2252 An act relative to ensuring confidentiality for victims of rape and domestic violence	Rep. Alice Peisch	Reports of domestic violence, sexual assault/rape will be kept confidential by the police department but will remain open to victims and victim's attorney. Police logs with identifying information about dv/sa reports will be kept separate and non-public.	Support	6/8/11	Joint Committee on the Judiciary
H2350/S1167 An act relative to the release of a body by the medical examiner to a person charged with an offense which resulted in the death of the deceased	Rep. Kate Hogan Sen. Karen Spilka	Provides for a deceased body to be released to proper legal authorities or any family/friend as long as the person is not charged with the death of the deceased.	Support	3/29/11	Joint Committee on Public Health
S972 An act relative to an employee protection act	Sen. Steven Tolman	Bars provisions in employment contracts that waive employees' rights or remedies relating to a claim of harassment or discrimination.	Support	9/15/11 written testimony	Joint Committee on Labor and Work Force Development

H2407 An act to establish a sex offender management board within the Executive Office of Public Safety	Rep. Kay Khan	Creation of sex offender management board to review current research on best practices and establish criteria for treatment providers.	Support	6/23/11 Oral testimony	Joint Committee on Public Safety
S682 An act relative to domestic violence and animals	Sen. Katherine Clark	Allows the court to include pets in temporary restraining orders.	Support	10/5/11 Written testimony	Joint Committee on the Judiciary Language in S2054 crime omnibus
H502 An act relative to gender based discrimination and hate crimes	Rep. Carl Sciortino Rep. Byron Rushing	The Transgender Equal Rights bill would add "gender identity and expression" to existing Massachusetts civil rights laws. It would also add offenses relating to gender identity and expression to the list of offenses subject to treatment as hate crimes.	Support	6/8/11 Oral testimony	PASSED as H3810 Awaiting Gov signature
S640 An Act to Protect & Enhance the Rights of Child & Adult Victims and Witnesses of Crime	Sen. Frederick Berry	The Victim Rights bill will increase notification of victim rights to non-English speaking victims and witnesses, and to families of victims in unsolved homicides; includes specific rights for victims and witnesses who are children or who have disabilities, (i.e. victim impact statements to be provided via audio or video)	Support	10/5/11 Written testimony	Joint Committee on the Judiciary
S190/H1063 An Act Relative to Healthy Youth	Sen. Katherine Clark Rep. Jim O'Day	This healthy sexuality bill would require that each school district or public school that offers sexual health education provide medically accurate, age-appropriate education. The bill does not create a mandate for sexual health education.	Support	9/20/11 Written testimony	Joint Committee on Education