

BILL H. 1547 / S. 1077

“An Act to improve protections relative to domestic violence”

By Representatives Higgins of Leominster, Nguyen of Andover, and Senator Michael Moore

PURPOSE

- Ensures recognition of coercive control and technological abuse as a part of Chapter 209A: Abuse Prevention (Restraining) Orders.
- Expands the statute of limitations in domestic violence cases from 6 years to 15 years.
- Highlights dangerous forms of abuse outside of physical or threatened violence. Thus, allowing the civil court to recognize those actions as grounds for a protective, restraining, order.

IMPACTS

By implementing coercive control and technological abuse to our laws, less visible forms of abuse are recognized, giving survivors the opportunity to seek protection.

95% domestic abuse survivors reported experiencing coercive control.

97% domestic abuse survivors reported experiencing technological abuse. (NARIKA)

COERCIVE CONTROL TACTICS:

Social Isolation: cut off from support networks

Repeated Humiliation: degrading language or behaviors

Controlling finances or access to resources

Threats of harm to individual or loved one

Threats of **filing false reports** to authorities

Damaging property or household goods

Forcing the individual to take part in **illegal activities**

Abusing the legal system to unfairly control/harm someone

Intimidation by displaying weapons



For more information contact us at:

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LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORT

BILL H. 1547

- Jane Doe Inc. The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and
- Domestic Violence
- Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)
- Salasin Project, a program of Western MA Training Consortium
- New Hope Inc.
- Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
- Shaquera's Story Domestic Violence Consulting and Coaching
- Alianza DV Services, Inc.
- Mimi Movement Inc.
- Mass Family Advocacy Coalition
- Independence House, Inc.
- Stuck617, Solutions To Uplift Communities & Kids, LLC
- Healing Trauma Through Spirit with Laura Bonetzky Joseph
- Jane Does Well
- DOVE, Inc.
- Jewish Family and Children's Service, Inc.
- Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc.
- League of Women Voters