

HOUSE No. 2051

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christopher J. Worrell and Brandy Fluker-Reid

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to end lifetime parole for juveniles and emerging adults.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christopher J. Worrell</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/21/2025</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/21/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/21/2025</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/21/2025</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 2051

By Representatives Worrell of Boston and Fluker-Reid of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2051) of Christopher J. Worrell, Erika Uytterhoeven and others for legislation to limit sentencing for juveniles and youth. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act to end lifetime parole for juveniles and emerging adults.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1

2 This Act shall take effect ten calendar days after it is signed by the Governor.

3 SECTION 2

4 Section 52 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by adding the
5 following new definition:

6 “Transformational Youth” shall mean a person who received a life sentence after being
7 convicted of first- or second-degree murder and who was at least 14 years of age but younger
8 than 21 years of age at the time of commission of the offense.

9 In addition, “Transformational Youth” shall mean a person who received a life sentence
10 after being convicted of manslaughter while violating the provisions of sections 102 to 102c,

11 inclusive, of chapter 266, and who was at least 14 years of age but younger than 21 years of age
12 at the time of commission of the offense.

13 This definition shall apply retroactively to include a person who received a life sentence
14 for the offenses described above and was at least 14 years of age but younger than 21 years of
15 age at the time of commission of the offense and who committed the offense prior to the
16 effective date of this Act.

17 SECTION 3

18 Section 52 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by adding to the
19 definition of “youthful offender” after the word “nineteen”, the following:

20 ... ; and provided that the definition of “youthful offender” shall exclude any individual
21 defined as a “Transformational Youth.”

22 SECTION 4

23 A new section 133G of chapter 127 of the General Laws, shall be added as follows:

24 (a) Once a Transformational Youth has lived on parole for three years without violating
25 the law, the Parole Board shall issue a certificate of termination of sentence to said
26 Transformational Youth pursuant to MGL c. 127, § 130A within 30 calendar days of the end of
27 said three years on parole.

28 (b) Within five calendar days of the date on which a Transformational Youth has lived on
29 parole for three years without violating the law, the individual Transformational Youth’s parole
30 officer shall submit a notice of impending parole termination to the Board’s Office of the

General Counsel notifying the Office of the General Counsel that the individual Transformational Youth lived on parole for three years without violating the law.

(c) Within five calendar days of the date of receipt by the Office of the General Counsel of the parole officer's notice of impending termination of parole for the individual Transformational Youth, the Office of the General Counsel shall provide a notice of impending termination of parole to the Parole Board for review and vote.

(d) Within ten calendar days of the date of receipt by the Parole Board of the notice of impending termination of the individual Transformational Youth's parole, the Parole Board shall vote in open session to issue a Certificate of Termination to the individual Transformational Youth pursuant to MGL c. 127, § 130A.

(e) Within five calendar days of the Board's vote to grant a Certificate of Termination to an individual Transformational Youth, the Board shall furnish a copy of the Certificate of Termination to the individual Transformational Youth.

(f) Within five calendar days of the Board's vote to grant a Certificate of Termination to the individual Transformational Youth, the Board shall furnish a copy of the Certificate of Termination to the Commissioner of Correction and the judge who pronounced sentence, in accordance with the terms of M.G.L. c. 127, § 130A. In the event the judge who pronounced sentence is retired or deceased, a copy of the Certificate of Termination shall be forwarded to the Regional Administrative Justice of the Superior Court for the County in which the Transformational Youth was sentenced.

(g) Within five calendar days of the Board's vote to grant a Certificate of Termination to the individual Transformational Youth, the Board shall furnish a copy of the Certificate of

Termination to all certified CORI petitioners and victims as enumerated in M.G.L. c. 6, § 178A and M.G.L. c. 258B, § 1.

(h) If an individual Transformational Youth has served more than three years on parole without violating the law as of the effective date of this Act, the individual Transformational Youth's parole officer shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Act, submit a notice of impending parole termination to the Office of the General Counsel notifying the Office of the General Counsel that the individual Transformational Youth lived on parole for more than three years. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of said notice by the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of the General Counsel shall provide a notice of impending termination of parole to the Parole Board for review and vote. Within 15 calendar days of the Board's receipt of said notice, the Board shall vote in open session to issue a Certificate of Termination to the individual Transformational Youth.

(i) Notification to all parties and individuals regarding the issuance, pursuant to subsection (h) above, of a Certificate of Termination to a Transformational Youth, including to the subject Transformational Youth, shall be in accordance with subsections (e), (f), and (g) above.

(j) If an individual Transformational Youth is already on parole on the effective date of this Act, and has lived less than three years on parole on the effective date of this Act, the time that said individual Transformational Youth has lived on parole on the effective date of this Act shall be counted as constituting time lived on parole for purposes of termination of parole. The Board shall issue a Certificate of Termination of sentence to said Transformational Youth pursuant to MGL c. 127, § 130A, and notify all parties and individuals of the Certificate of

75 Termination of sentence, after the Transformational Youth has lived for three years on parole, in
76 accordance with subsections (b) through (g) above.