

HOUSE No. 577

By Mr. Travaline of Somerville, petition of John J. Droney, Joseph T. Travaline and Lloyd E. Conn for legislation to modify the punishment for murder in the first degree by providing for a waiver of the death penalty in certain cases. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

AN ACT MODIFYING THE PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE BY PROVIDING FOR A WAIVER OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN CERTAIN CASES.

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 2, Chapter 265 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after said section 2 the following sec-
3 tions:—

4 *Section 2A.* The attorney general of the district attorneys
5 may, either orally or in writing, at any time prior to trial or
6 the implement of a jury, elect not to seek the death penalty for
7 murder in the first degree.

8 *Section 2B.* In the event that such a waiver of the death
9 penalty is made by the attorney general or the district attor-
10 neys, the trial judge shall not permit examination of prospec-
11 tive jurors as to their views on capital punishment and the
12 trial judge shall instruct the jury that if it finds a verdict of
13 murder in the first degree, it must be with a recommendation
14 of life imprisonment.

The Commission on the Status of Women

1. The Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1961 by the President of the United States to study and report on the status of women in the United States. The Commission's report, "The Status of Women in the United States," was published in 1963. The report identified several areas where women were disadvantaged and recommended actions to improve their status. The Commission's findings and recommendations are summarized in the following table:

Area of Concern	Findings	Recommendations
1. Employment	Women were often paid less than men for the same work. There were also barriers to women's advancement in the workplace.	Enact legislation to prohibit sex discrimination in employment. Encourage equal pay for equal work.
2. Education	Women were often discouraged from pursuing higher education and careers in science, technology, and engineering.	Encourage women to pursue higher education and careers in science, technology, and engineering.
3. Family and Social Roles	Women were often expected to perform both domestic and professional roles, which could be burdensome.	Encourage shared domestic responsibilities between men and women.
4. Political Participation	Women were underrepresented in political offices and decision-making positions.	Encourage women to run for political office and participate in decision-making.
5. Health and Safety	Women were often at risk of sexual harassment and violence in the workplace.	Enact legislation to prohibit sexual harassment and violence in the workplace.
6. Economic Independence	Women often lacked access to credit and financial resources, making it difficult to start businesses or improve their financial situation.	Encourage women to start businesses and improve their financial situation.
7. Social Services	There were often gaps in social services, such as child care and elder care, which could hinder women's ability to work and care for their families.	Expand social services, such as child care and elder care.
8. Legal Rights	Women often faced legal discrimination, particularly in areas of property rights and inheritance.	Enact legislation to prohibit legal discrimination against women.
9. International Status	Women's status in the United States was often compared to women's status in other countries, highlighting areas for improvement.	Encourage the United States to improve women's status to match other developed countries.
10. Overall Status	Women's status in the United States had improved since the 1940s, but there was still much work to be done to achieve equality.	Continue to work towards achieving equality for women in the United States.