

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1937

**TITLE:** An Act relative to the Commonwealth's right to appeal bail decisions

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

**COSPONSORS:** Rep. Brian M. Ashe

**HEARING DATE:** September 9, 2025

**REPORTING DEADLINE:** November 8, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1725 (2023-2024) H940 (2017-2018)  
H1839 (2021-2022) H3830 (2015-2016)  
H1530 (2019-2020)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 58 of Chapter 276 outlines the standards and procedures for the bail hearing required for all persons arrested unless the offense is punishable by death, is covered by Section 58A of the Chapter or is based on a warrant of arrest issued by the Superior Court. It outlines the procedure for a person to petition for review of a District Court's decision to deny their release on bail to Superior Court. It prohibits the Superior Court from altering a District Court bail decision for an offense subsequently arraigned in Superior Court absent changed or newly discovered circumstances.

Section 58A of Chapter 276 permits the Commonwealth to move for an order of pretrial detention or release based on dangerousness for certain offenses. It also outlines the procedure for a person to petition for review of a District Court's decision to deny their release on bail to Superior Court.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Sections 1 & 2 – Update the language in Section 58 of Chapter 276 on appealing bail decisions to also permit the Commonwealth to petition for review and sets a detailed procedure for hearings on these petitions. Removes all language restricting bail reviews for offenses subsequently arraigned in Superior Court. Also removes language permitting an order of participation in community corrections programs in lieu of bail as a condition of release.

Section 3 – Updates the language in Section 58A of Chapter 276 on appealing bail decisions to also permit the Commonwealth to petition for review and sets a detailed procedure for hearings on these petitions.