General Assembly

House Joint Resolution No. 1

LCO No. **741**

00741

Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:
  REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.
  SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
  SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
  REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCIES IN THE STATE.

Resolved by this Assembly:

1   WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization
2   designated the respiratory virus "COVID-19" or coronavirus 2019, as a
3   communicable respiratory disease; and

4   WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, in response to the global pandemic of
5   COVID-19 that was affecting multiple countries and states and had
6   resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and surrounding
7   states, Governor Ned Lamont declared a public health emergency and
8   civil preparedness emergency throughout the state, pursuant to sections
9   19a-131a and 28-9 of the general statutes; and

10   WHEREAS, on multiple occasions since March 10, 2020, acting
11   pursuant to the authority granted by sections 19a-131 and 28-9 of the
12   general statutes and special acts 21-2, 21-4 and 21-5, and in response to

13   the continued need to respond adequately to the COVID-19 pandemic,
14   the Governor renewed the declarations of public health and civil
15   preparedness emergencies and issued new declarations of public health
16   and civil preparedness emergencies, the most recent of which will
17   expire on February 15, 2022; and

18   WHEREAS, pursuant to said declarations of public health and civil
19   preparedness emergencies, the Governor issued certain executive
20   orders to protect the public health and mitigate the effects of the COVID-
21   19 pandemic and several of those executive orders remain necessary to
22   protect the public health and mitigate such harmful effects; and

23   WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily
24   from person to person and may result in serious illness or death and the
25   World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a
26   pandemic; and

27   WHEREAS, COVID-19 has resulted in serious consequences for the
28   residents of the state and the state's economy; and

29   WHEREAS, COVID-19 has resulted in and continues to present
30   increased risk of severe illness, complications, and death, particularly to
31   those with chronic conditions; and

32   WHEREAS, the omicron variant of COVID-19 is highly contagious,
33   more transmissible and spreads more quickly throughout the
34   population than other COVID-19 variants and has caused COVID-19
35   infections to rapidly increase within the United States and Connecticut;
36   and

37   WHEREAS, given the continued harmful impact of COVID-19, it is
38   essential to the health, safety and welfare of Connecticut's citizens that
39   there continue to be declared public health and civil preparedness
40   emergencies to enable state agencies to access crucial federal funds
41   under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
42   Act, 42 USC 5121 et seq., and the supplemental nutrition assistance
43   program; and

44   WHEREAS, article third of the Constitution of the state vests in the
45   Connecticut General Assembly broad police powers, including those
46   necessary to protect public health and safety, together with the ability
47   to take measures to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious
48   and contagious diseases.

49   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General
50   Assembly hereby declares that a public health emergency and a civil
51   preparedness emergency continue to exist throughout the state through
52   June 30, 2022; and

53   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and House
54   of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to Governor
55   Ned Lamont, the Secretary of the State and each member of the
56   Connecticut congressional delegation.