

HOUSE No. 3314

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tami L. Gouveia

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 relative to victims rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Tami L. Gouveia

14th Middlesex

Michelle M. DuBois

10th Plymouth

HOUSE No. 3314

By Ms. Gouveia of Acton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3314) of Tami L. Gouveia and Michelle M. DuBois relative to victims rights. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 709 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to victims rights.

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. Chapter 228 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 14 the following section:-

3 Section 15. The death of a criminal defendant who is convicted of a criminal offense shall
4 automatically terminate the right to appeal or any appeal pending of such conviction, and where
5 such conviction has not been previously vacated or reversed by an order or decision of a court,
6 the judgment of conviction shall stand.

7 This section shall not preclude the attorney general or district attorney from commencing
8 an action to vacate the conviction judgment against a deceased defendant in the interest of
9 justice.