

HOUSE No. 4672

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

Resolutions establishing the annual observance of COVID-19 Remembrance Day.

1 SECTION 1. The General Court hereby finds and declares that:

2 (i) the 2019 novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, also known as COVID-19, is a deadly
3 illness caused by a virus that can transmit from person to person;

4 (ii) in 2020, COVID-19 began to spread throughout the world, creating a global
5 pandemic that has had a catastrophic impact on human life, communities in the commonwealth,
6 communities in the United States and the United States economy;

7 (iii) in March 2020, communities in every state began to experience increased loss of life
8 and families lost loved ones, friends and neighbors to the virus;

9 (iv) the governor declared a state of emergency in response to the virus on March 10,
10 2020, which was subsequently terminated on June 15, 2021;

11 (v) beginning in 2020, many across the commonwealth and the United States were, and
12 continue to be, personally impacted by COVID-19, including mourning their loved ones, friends
13 and neighbors or suffering from the long-term health implications of the virus;

14 (vi) as of March 2022, there have been more than 1.5 million known cases of COVID-19
15 in the commonwealth and over 18,900 people who have tragically lost their lives;

16 (vii) as of March 2022, there have been more than 79.5 million known cases of the virus
17 in the United States and more than 965,000 people who tragically lost their lives;

18 (vii) COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income communities and
19 communities of color, especially those older and vulnerable adults residing or working in nursing
20 homes, with high rates of infection and death, exacerbating inequities and poor-quality care
21 already prevalent in our systems that must be addressed throughout the commonwealth and the
22 United States;

23 (viii) public servants, frontline and essential workers and health care professionals took
24 selfless actions to protect their neighbors and communities, support struggling economies and
25 find innovative ways to provide services;

26 (x) local, state, tribal and federal government entities provided critical support to
27 businesses, communities and the people of the commonwealth and the United States in need;

28 (xi) the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on the commonwealth, the
29 United States and countries around the world; and

30 (xii) each life lost to COVID-19, each inequity and broken system brought to light and
31 each sacrifice made shall never be forgotten.

32 SECTION 2. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
33 15LLLLLL the following section:-

34 Section 15MMMMMM. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart
35 the first Monday in March as COVID-19 Remembrance Day, in recognition of those who died
36 from 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, the suffering of those who contracted
37 COVID-19 and survived but carry with them the long-term health implications of the virus, the
38 suffering of those who died or harmed from isolation and depression resulting from lack of
39 visitation and inadequate staffing or oversight, and to acknowledge the frontline and essential
40 workers who provided services to our communities and the selfless actions of the many residents
41 of the commonwealth who volunteered to support their neighbors and communities during the
42 COVID-19 pandemic, and recommending the day be observed in an appropriate manner
43 including, but not limited to, attention to strengthening prevention programs, by the people of
44 the commonwealth.