

SENATE No. 2197

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Tarr and Brady, Ms. L’Italien, Messrs. McGee and Joyce, Ms. Lovely, Mr. Timilty, Ms. Gobi, Ms. Donoghue, Mr. Lesser, Ms. O’Connor Ives, Ms. Chandler and Messrs. Eldridge and Fattman) “commending Roberta "Bobbi" Gibb on the fiftieth anniversary of her achievement as the first woman to run the Boston Marathon.”

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

Resolutions commending Roberta "Bobbi" Gibb on the fiftieth anniversary of her achievement as the first woman to run the Boston Marathon.

1 WHEREAS, ROBERTA “BOBBI” GIBB HAS BEEN NAMED THE 2016 GRAND
2 MARSHAL OF THE BOSTON MARATHON AND IS BEING HONORED ON THE
3 FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HER FIRST BOSTON MARATHON RUN AND FOR HER
4 ACHIEVEMENT AS THE FIRST WOMAN TO RUN THE BOSTON MARATHON; AND

5 WHEREAS, BOBBI GIBB MADE HISTORY IN 1966 BY BECOMING THE FIRST
6 WOMAN TO COMPLETE THE BOSTON MARATHON, CROSSING THE FINISH LINE IN
7 3 HOURS, 21 MINUTES AND 40 SECONDS; AND

8 WHEREAS, BOBBI GIBB TRAINED FOR 2 YEARS TO COMPETE IN THE
9 BOSTON MARATHON ONLY TO BE TOLD AFTER SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO
10 RUN IN 1966 THAT WOMEN WERE NOT PERMITTED IN THE RACE UNDER RULES
11 SET BY THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION WHICH BARRED WOMEN FROM
12 PARTICIPATING IN COMPETITIVE RACES LONGER THAN 1 AND 1/2 MILES; AND

13 WHEREAS, BOBBI GIBB NEVERTHELESS TRAVELED TO THE
14 COMMONWEALTH FROM CALIFORNIA, CONCEALED HER FACE AND HID NEAR
15 THE STARTING PEN ON APRIL 19, 1966 IN ORDER TO RUN THE ENTIRE 26.2 MILES
16 OF THE BOSTON MARATHON AND FINISHED AHEAD OF 2/3 OF THE 415 OFFICIAL
17 STARTERS; AND

18 WHEREAS, BOBBI GIBB'S IDENTITY WAS NOT KEPT SECRET FOR LONG AS
19 NEWS OF HER HISTORIC RUN SPREAD AMONG THE CHEERING CROWD AND SHE
20 WAS GREETED WITH CRIES OF SUPPORT AND MALE RUNNERS OFFERING TO
21 SHIELD HER FROM THOSE WHO TRIED TO STOP HER FROM RUNNING,
22 CULMINATING IN HER BEING MET AT THE FINISH LINE BY GOVERNOR JOHN
23 VOLPE, WHO SHOOK HER HAND AND CONGRATULATED HER; AND

24 WHEREAS, BOBBI GIBB WAS THE TOP WOMEN'S FINISHER IN 1967 AND 1968
25 AS WELL AND WAS THE FIRST AMONG A NUMBER OF OTHER WOMEN TO
26 COMPETE AS UNSANCTIONED RUNNERS TO CHANGE MISGUIDED GENDER
27 STEREOTYPES, CULMINATING IN THE FIRST WOMEN'S DIVISION MARATHON
28 OPENING IN 1972; AND

29 WHEREAS, BOBBI GIBB WENT ON TO BECOME A LAWYER, SCULPTOR,
30 AUTHOR, NEUROSCIENCE LABORATORY ASSOCIATE AND MOTHER AND ON
31 APRIL 18, 2016 WILL BE HONORED AS THE 2016 GRAND MARSHAL OF THE BOSTON
32 MARATHON; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

33 RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE HEREBY COMMENDS
34 ROBERTA "BOBBI" GIBB ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HER ACHIEVEMENT

35 AS THE FIRST WOMAN TO COMPLETE THE BOSTON MARATHON AND FURTHER
36 EXTENDS ITS SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HER
37 FUTURE ENDEAVORS; AND BE IT FURTHER

38 RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE TRANSMITTED
39 FORTHWITH BY THE CLERK OF THE SENATE TO ROBERTA "BOBBI" GIBB.