

HOUSE No. 3251

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven G. Xiarhos

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 making August 31st overdose awareness day in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Steven G. Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/12/2021</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>

<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/14/2021</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/24/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/25/2021</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>	<i>4/6/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>5/5/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>8/27/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 3251

By Mr. Xiarhos of Barnstable, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3251) of Steven G. Xiarhos and others for legislation to establish August 31st as overdose awareness day in the Commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act making August 31st overdose awareness day in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Whereas, recognizing that addiction is a disease, Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise
2 awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related death; and

3 Whereas, Overdose Awareness Day acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends
4 remembering those who have met with death or permanent injury as a result of drug overdose;
5 and

6 Whereas, globally, an estimated minimum of 190,900 premature deaths are caused by
7 drugs. The United States leads the world in drug overdose deaths, with opioids accounting for
8 the majority of drug-related deaths. Such deaths are avoidable in most cases; and

9 Whereas, this day provides an opportunity for people to mourn publicly for loved ones,
10 some for the first time, without feeling guilt or shame. It also sends a strong message to current
11 and former drug users that they are valued; and

12 Whereas, in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day, the House urges the citizens of this
13 great Commonwealth to educate themselves about this important issue.

14 Therefore: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts officially declares August 31st
15 Overdose Awareness Day and recognizes it as such.