

SENATE No. 2021

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

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 providing for the creation of a Massachusetts COVID-19 Memorial.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*60 Lake Street Unit N, Winchester, MA
01890*

SENATE No. 2021

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2021) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to provide for the creation of a Massachusetts COVID-19 Memorial. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2079 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act providing for the creation of a Massachusetts COVID-19 Memorial.

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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 PURPOSE:

4 The COVID-19 Pandemic, which began in the year 2020, and may well continue deep
5 into future years, and possibly further, has already taken a toll that is massive, tragic, and
6 devastating to the lives of tens of thousands, of Massachusetts residents; disrupted, and damaged
7 the lives of the people of Massachusetts, their families, schools and other educational
8 institutions, workplaces, friends; businesses, the economy, other institutions of society, and
9 more. These losses, as they mount, are also accompanied by the damage to the health, perhaps

10 for life, of many thousands of other individuals. The losses, as of the original writing of these
11 words, are already at the level previously encountered, only in previous military conflicts; and
12 these losses are likely to continue to mount, far beyond those levels.

13 Public Monuments, serve many purposes, including to honor significant persons, and to
14 remember important losses; thereby providing specific respect, and some important roles in
15 public education.

16 Therefore, this legislation, establishes a Purpose for developing a Massachusetts COVID-
17 19 Memorial.

18 SECTION 2. To establish this Memorial, this enabling legislation, authorizes the creation
19 of a Massachusetts COVID-19 Memorial Commission, to honor those who have died from the
20 virus, been injured, and/or harmed by it, and to encourage thoughtful reflection on the
21 circumstances of the Pandemic, in Massachusetts.

22 This Commission, shall have nineteen (19) members, appointed by the Governor of
23 Massachusetts, and other specified officials:

- 24 • One (1) designee of the Governor
- 25 • One (1) designee of the President of the Senate
- 26 • One (1) designee of the Speaker of the House
- 27 • Five (5) Chief Executive Officers, or their designees, from accredited hospitals,
28 whose primary offices, are in the Commonwealth
- 29 • One (1) representative of Massachusetts Nurses

- 30 • One (1) representative of Massachusetts Doctors
- 31 • One (1) representative of Massachusetts Educators
- 32 • One (1) representative of EMTs
- 33 • One (1) representative of Firefighters
- 34 • One (1) representative of Police Officers
- 35 • One (1) representative of Homemakers
- 36 • One (1) representative of Food Service Workers
- 37 • Three (3) Citizens At Large

38 SECTION 3. The life of this Commission, shall be up to three (3) years, from its
39 appointment; and it shall select a Chairperson, from among its membership.

40 This Commission, shall publicize its Mission of Memorial, and welcome any, and all,
41 appropriate ideas for a fixed Memorial, a location for such Memorial, in a statue type display,
42 and possibly including a public health educational outreach program, on viruses, vaccines, and
43 other similar effective disease controlling, and defeating; scientific, and public engaging
44 activities. A report shall be produced, with analysis, recommendations, and suggestions for such
45 a Memorial.