

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rodney M. Elliott

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 designating Diwali Day as a state holiday.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act designating Diwali Day as a state holiday.

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

1 Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding after Section 15ZZZZZZ, the following section:-

3 Section 15AAAAAAA. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting aside
4 the fifteenth day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Kartik as the official Diwali Day, establishing
5 the day as a state holiday, recommending its observance by the people as a period of special
6 attention in recognition of the Diwali celebration known as the “Festival of Lights”, a five day
7 long festival where the third day is a day of thanksgiving and reflection celebrated worldwide
8 and by millions of Americans.