



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION AND
REGULATORY OVERSIGHT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Rep. Antonio F. D. Cabral
House Chair

Sen. Nick Collins
Senate Chair

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM-5:00 PM

Location: Written Testimony Only

Matters concerning late file bills.

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
H4688	Hawkins, James K. (HOU)	An Act making August 10th Agent Orange Awareness Day in Massachusetts
H4737	Puppolo, Jr., Angelo J. (HOU)	An Act relative to veterinary youth day

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chairs. Further, the Chairs may schedule an executive session to coincide with this hearing. Per Committee Rules, Joint Committee members will be given any advance notice and materials to review.

All House matters listed above shall be reported on by January 23, 2026, subject to extensions pursuant to House Rule 27.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMISSIONS:

The Committee will accept written testimony submissions starting at **12 PM on Tuesday, November 25, 2025**. The hearing will conclude at **5 PM on Wednesday, November 26, 2025**. However, testimony will still be accepted by the Committee after this date.

Please be advised that written testimony should be addressed to **House Chair Rep. Antonio F.D. Cabral** and **Senate Chair Sen. Nick Collins**, and may be submitted via email to Nicole Janeiro at nicole.janeiro@mahouse.gov and Riley Nichols at riley.nichols@masenate.gov.

When submitting testimony by email, we kindly ask that you please **indicate your position** (support, oppose, or request for amendment) along with the bill number(s) in the subject line of testimony submission emails.

Alternatively, testimony can be physically mailed to either the House or Senate Chair:

Chair Antonio F.D. Cabral
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
ATTN: Nicole Janeiro
24 Beacon St, Suite 466
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Nick Collins
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
ATTN: Riley Nichols
24 Beacon St, Room 511-A
Boston, MA 02133

Written testimony is encouraged and will continue to be accepted after the hearing until relevant bills are acted upon.

Please note that oral and written testimony submitted to the committee may be made publicly available, subject to the discretion of the Chairs and in accordance with committee rules. The committee may limit or redact testimony that includes sensitive personal information or information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of the testifier or others.

You may contact committee staff with any questions by emailing Nicole Janeiro at nicole.janeiro@mahouse.gov or Riley Nichols at riley.nichols@masenate.gov.

You may contact committee staff with any questions at (617) 722-2017 or (617) 722-1150.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 4688
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act making August 10th Agent Orange Awareness Day in Massachusetts
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representatives Hawkins of Attleboro, Pease of Westfield, Arriaga of Chicopee, Badger of Plymouth, Field of Taunton, Fluker-Reid of Boston, Gentile of Sudbury, Hamilton of Methuen, Higgins of Leominster, Kearney of Scituate, LaNatra of Kingston, Marsi of Charlton, Murray of Milford, Nguyen of Andover, Ouellette of Westport, Puppolo of Springfield, Silvia of Fall River, Vieira of Falmouth, Whipples of Athol, and Xiarhos of Barnstable
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	None

PRIOR HISTORY

None

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 6: Sets out the organization, duties, and commemorative observances of the Commonwealth's executive branch.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes August 10th as Agent Orange Awareness Day in Massachusetts, requiring the governor to issue an annual proclamation recognizing the day.

The observance is intended to honor Vietnam War veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. By doing so, the Commonwealth formally adds Agent Orange Awareness Day to its list of official commemorative observances.

HOUSE **No. 4688**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James K. Hawkins and Kelly W. Pease

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 10th Agent Orange Awareness Day in Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
James K. Hawkins	2nd Bristol	8/15/2025
Kelly W. Pease	4th Hampden	9/9/2025
Shirley B. Arriaga	8th Hampden	9/9/2025
Michelle L. Badger	1st Plymouth	10/12/2025
Lisa Field	3rd Bristol	9/10/2025
Brandy Fluker-Reid	12th Suffolk	10/1/2025
Carmine Lawrence Gentile	13th Middlesex	9/11/2025
Ryan M. Hamilton	15th Essex	9/11/2025
Natalie M. Higgins	4th Worcester	9/25/2025
Patrick Joseph Kearney	4th Plymouth	9/10/2025
Kathleen R. LaNatra	12th Plymouth	9/9/2025
John J. Marsi	6th Worcester	9/9/2025
Brian W. Murray	10th Worcester	9/10/2025
Tram T. Nguyen	18th Essex	9/9/2025
Steven J. Ouellette	8th Bristol	9/11/2025
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden	9/10/2025
Alan Silvia	7th Bristol	9/18/2025
David T. Vieira	3rd Barnstable	9/24/2025

Susannah M. Whipps

Steven George Xiarhos

2nd Franklin

5th Barnstable

9/9/2025

9/9/2025

By Representatives Hawkins of Attleboro and Pease of Westfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James K. Hawkins, Kelly W. Pease and others for legislation to designate August 10th as Agent Orange awareness day. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act making August 10th Agent Orange Awareness Day in Massachusetts.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to designate forthwith August 10th Agent Orange Awareness Day, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

1 Part I, Title II, Chapter 6, of the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Section
2 15XXXXX: "The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart August 10th as
3 Agent Orange Awareness Day and recommending that the day be observed in an appropriate
4 manner by the people."

5 WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their
6 safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Commonwealth is
7 especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above
8 and beyond the call of duty. The citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been
9 called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and

10 leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to
11 all Americans and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

12 WHEREAS, more than eight million citizens of this country honorably served during the
13 Vietnam War, during which time Agent Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the United
14 States Armed Forces as part of the herbicidal warfare program Operation Ranch Hand from 1961
15 until 1971. Nearly 20 million gallons of the orange powder were sprayed over the land from
16 helicopters or low-flying aircraft, destroying vegetation and crops to deprive enemy guerrillas of
17 food and cover for their activities and exposing 2.6 million American soldiers to the herbicide
18 and defoliant chemical; and

19 WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin and cancer-causing chemical that enters the body
20 through physical contact or ingestion and moves into the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the
21 genes and causes a number of serious illnesses, including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma,
22 ischemic heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, diabetes, and cancers of the throat,
23 prostate, lung, and colon. Agent Orange also causes genetic damage, and in some cases, the
24 children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent Orange have been born with spina
25 bifida and other abnormalities. Today, only 800,000 Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange
26 are alive, and approximately 300 deaths occur among them every day; and

27 WHEREAS, while fallen comrades are memorialized on The Wall at the Vietnam
28 Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., those veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are
29 not recognized as fatalities of the Vietnam War; and

30 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor these veterans to the full extent
31 of our ability, as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we

32 enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come;
33 now, therefore,

34 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts honors and recognizes the victims of
35 Agent Orange during the Vietnam War for their courageous service to our nation as some of
36 America's most heroic citizens.

37 THEREFORE, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts officially declares August 10th as
38 Agent Orange Awareness Day and recognizes it as such.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER House, No. 4737

TITLE An Act relative to veterinary youth day

SPONSORS Representatives Puppolo of Springfield, Arena-DeRosa of Holliston, Arriaga of Chicopee, Field of Taunton, Hong of Lowell, Howard of Lowell, Howitt of Seekonk, Kearney of Scituate, Kerans of Danvers, Marsi of Charlton, McMurtry of Dedham, Paulino of Methuen, Pease of Westfield, Williams of Springfield, and Xiarhos of Barnstable; Senator Collins

SIMILAR MATTERS None

PRIOR HISTORY

None

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 6: Sets out the organization, duties, and commemorative observances of the Commonwealth's executive branch.

SUMMARY

This bill amends Chapter 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws by adding Section 15FFFFFF, which designates May 2 as Veterinary Youth Day. It requires the governor to issue an annual proclamation to raise awareness of veterinary medicine, the shortage of veterinarians, and the importance of animal welfare, and encourages schools and communities to partner with local veterinarians and animal shelters to expose students to career opportunities in the field.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

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 relative to veterinary youth day.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>10/23/2025</i>
<i>Anna Banas-Chen</i>		<i>10/23/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>10/24/2025</i>
<i>Lisa Field</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>10/24/2025</i>
<i>Tara T. Hong</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>10/28/2025</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>10/29/2025</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>10/27/2025</i>
<i>John J. Marsi</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>10/24/2025</i>
<i>Francisco E. Paulino</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>10/29/2025</i>
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>10/29/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>10/24/2025</i>
<i>Shirley B. Arriaga</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>	<i>11/7/2025</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>11/13/2025</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>11/5/2025</i>
<i>Sally P. Kerans</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>11/12/2025</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>11/5/2025</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>11/5/2025</i>

By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and others for the issuance of an annual proclamation by the Governor to designate May 2 as veterinary youth day. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to veterinary youth day.

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 is hereby amended by inserting after Section
2 15EEEEEE, added by chapter 32 of the acts of 2025, the following section:-
3
4 Section 15FFFFFF. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart May
5 2 as Veterinary Youth Day to call attention to the youth of the commonwealth to get involved in
6 veterinary medicine, to raise awareness of the shortage of veterinarians in commonwealth and
7 the importance of animal welfare and to call for schools, individuals and communities to partner
8 with local veterinarians and animal shelters in the commonwealth to expose students to careers in
9 veterinary medicine and shall recommend that the day be observed in an appropriate manner by
the people.