

SENATE No. 1652

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi

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 to designate Narcolepsy Awareness Day.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Anne M. Gobi

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and
Middlesex*

SENATE No. 1652

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1652) of Anne M. Gobi for legislation to designate Narcolepsy Awareness Day. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2814 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to designate Narcolepsy Awareness 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 Whereas, According to current estimates, the disorder affects about one in every 2,000
2 Americans. Researchers estimate 200,000 people living in the United States is effected by this
3 chronic disease. Whereas, Narcolepsy appears throughout the United States, in every racial and
4 ethnic group, affecting males and females equally;

5 Whereas, The cause of narcolepsy remains unknown, however recent research suggests
6 that Narcolepsy may be an auto-immune disease, and no cure for the disorder currently exists;

7 Whereas, Narcolepsy has the potential to prove profoundly disabling to all those who are
8 affected by the disorder, causing them to fall asleep involuntarily while going about their daily
9 lives;

10 Whereas, Experts recognize that narcolepsy sometimes contributes to certain childhood
11 behavioral problems, such as attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and, if left undiagnosed and
12 untreated, narcolepsy can pose special problems for children and adolescents, interfering with
13 their psychological, social, and cognitive development;

14 Whereas, Narcolepsy is not definitively diagnosed in most patients until 10 to 15 years
15 after the first symptoms appear due to a lack of awareness amongst both health professionals and
16 the general public;

17 Whereas, it is understood to be to the benefit of the general public to raise awareness of
18 this potentially crippling neurological disorder;

19 Therefore, let it be enacted as follows:

20 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is
21 hereby amended by inserting after section 15TTTTT, the following section: -

22 “SECTION 15 UUUUU. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart
23 the seventh day of March as “Narcolepsy Awareness Day” in recognition of the many citizens of
24 the Commonwealth affected by Narcolepsy, the need for increased awareness amongst medical
25 professionals and the general public, research and support for those affected and their families,
26 and recommending that the day be observed in an appropriate manner by the citizens of
27 Massachusetts. “