

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1941 Session of  
2024

INTRODUCED BY GREEN, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, KHAN, GIRAL,  
FREEMAN, MALAGARI, DONAHUE, KAZEEM, DELLOSO, SANCHEZ,  
HADDOCK, MAYES, CERRATO, CONKLIN, GILLEN AND OTTEN,  
JANUARY 3, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 3, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for cancer survivor  
3 recognition.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 38 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 17

9 CANCER SURVIVOR RECOGNITION

10 Sec.

11 1701. Scope of chapter.

12 1702. Definitions.

13 1703. Cancer Survivor Week.

14 1704. Cancer of Unknown Primary Day.

15 § 1701. Scope of chapter.

16 This chapter recognizes cancer survivors and fosters greater  
17 awareness of cancers of unknown primary.

1 § 1702. Definitions.

2 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
3 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
4 context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "CUP." Cancer of unknown primary.

6 § 1703. Cancer Survivor Week.

7 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General  
8 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

9 (1) As a result of advances in early detection and  
10 treatment, cancer has become a curable disease for some and a  
11 chronic illness for many others.

12 (2) A cancer survivor can be considered anyone living  
13 with a history of cancer from the moment of diagnosis through  
14 the remainder of life.

15 (3) A cancer survivor may be a parent, child,  
16 grandparent, family member, friend, neighbor or colleague.

17 (4) Cancer survivorship has three distinct phases:  
18 living with cancer, living through cancer and living beyond  
19 cancer.

20 (5) Surviving cancer may leave a host of problems in its  
21 wake.

22 (6) Physical, emotional and financial hardships often  
23 persist for years after diagnosis and treatment.

24 (7) Many cancer survivors are deeply grateful to their  
25 caregivers, family, friends, health care providers and  
26 communities for the love, dedication and support while  
27 battling cancer.

28 (8) It is important that we honor all cancer survivors  
29 for their strength, courage and inspiration.

30 (b) Designation.--November 26 through December 2 of each

1 year is designated as Cancer Survivor Week.

2 (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall annually issue a  
3 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational  
4 institutions to observe Cancer Survivor Week. The proclamation  
5 may not mandate a public school or educational institution to  
6 participate in the observance.

7 § 1704. Cancer of Unknown Primary Day.

8 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General  
9 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) Cancer can develop anywhere in the body and the  
11 organ or part of the body where cancer begins is known as the  
12 primary site.

13 (2) Cancer, including cancer that metastasizes, or  
14 spreads, to form new tumors elsewhere in the body is named  
15 after the primary site.

16 (3) CUP occurs when cancer cells have spread in the body  
17 and formed metastatic tumors yet the site of the primary  
18 cancer is not known.

19 (4) Also called occult primary cancer, CUP is most  
20 commonly found in the lymph nodes, liver, lungs, bones or  
21 skin.

22 (5) For most people with CUP, a primary site of cancer  
23 is not identified and teams of oncology and health care  
24 professionals identify features of each individual tumor to  
25 determine the best care plan.

26 (6) Signs and symptoms of CUP depend on what part of the  
27 body is involved and can include lumps that can be felt  
28 through the skin, pain, changes in bowel habits, such as new  
29 and persistent constipation or diarrhea, frequent urination,  
30 cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss.

1           (7) The risk of CUP may be related to older age and a  
2           family history of cancer.

3           (8) About 80% to 85% of patients diagnosed with CUP are  
4           impacted by an aggressive form of the disease with an  
5           unpredictable pattern of metastatic spread resistant to  
6           standard chemotherapy, leading to a reduced survival rate of  
7           five to 11 months on average.

8           (9) It is important that all health care professionals,  
9           patients and cancer research centers within this Commonwealth  
10          foster greater awareness for CUP sites.

11          (b) Designation.--November 30 of each year is designated as  
12          Cancer of Unknown Primary Day.

13          (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a  
14          proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational  
15          institutions to observe Cancer of Unknown Primary Day. The  
16          proclamation may not mandate a public school or educational  
17          institution to participate in the observance.

18          Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.