

HOUSE No. 1138

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, petition of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for legislation to establish a state pharmacy council to coordinate agencies in lowering prescription drug costs. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bradley H. Jones, Jr. | Robert S. Hargraves |
| Mary S. Rogeness | Karyn E. Polito |
| George N. Peterson, Jr. | Susan Williams Gifford |
| John A. Lepper | Richard J. Ross |
| Viriato Manuel deMacedo | Paul J. P. Loscocco |
| Paul K. Frost | Donald F. Humason, Jr. |
| Elizabeth A. Poirier | Todd M. Smola |

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STATE PHARMACY COUNCIL.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the
2 contrary, there shall be a state pharmacy council which shall consist
3 of the commissioner of public health, or designee; the commissioner
4 of insurance, or designee; the secretary of elder affairs, or designee;
5 the secretary of health and human services, or designee; three
6 consumers, to be appointed by the governor; a member from the
7 Massachusetts Medical Society, so-called; a member from Massa-
8 chusetts Pharmacists Association, so-called; a member from the
9 Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association, so-called; a
10 member from the Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharma-
11 cists, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts Biotechnology
12 Council, so-called; a member from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, so-
13 called; a member from Blue Cross Blue Shield, so-called; a member
14 from Tufts Health Plan, so-called; a member from Commonwealth
15 Communities, so called; and a member from Massachusetts Associa-
16 tion of Health Plans, so-called. The appointed members shall be

17 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
18 their duties. The state pharmacy council shall meet at least quarterly.

1 SECTION 2. The state pharmacy council shall act to coordinate
2 the agencies within the executive office of health and human
3 services and the division of insurance in their effort to lower
4 prescription drug costs for the state. The state pharmacy council
5 shall be responsible for ensuring the ongoing communication and
6 coordination between agencies and the agencies' communications
7 with the legislature, while having a vested interest in achieving
8 savings in prescription drug spending. The state pharmacy council
9 shall explore improvements in program costs, access, and quality.

1 SECTION 3. The state pharmacy council shall review legislation
2 and regulations relating to programs and operations relative to
3 pharmaceuticals and shall make recommendations concerning the
4 effect of such legislation or regulation. Said council shall recom-
5 mend policies which will contribute to lowering prescription drug
6 costs in the state. Said council shall recommend policies for the
7 conduct, supervision or coordination of relationships between state
8 and county agencies, other state and local government agencies,
9 federal agencies and nongovernmental entities with respect to all
10 matters relating to prescription drugs in the state.