

HOUSE No. 1075

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Bradley H. Jones, 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 passage of the accompanying bill:
An Act establishing the state pharmacy council.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	1st Plymouth
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	20th Middlesex
George N. Peterson, Jr.	9th Worcester
Elizabeth Poirier	14th Bristol
Paul K. Frost	7th Worcester
Susan Williams Gifford	2nd Plymouth
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Bradford R. Hill	4th Essex
Robert S. Hargraves	1st Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1138 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
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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:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a state pharmacy council which shall consist of the commissioner of public health, or designee; the commissioner of insurance, or designee; the secretary of elder affairs, or designee; the secretary of health and human services, or designee; three consumers, to be appointed by the governor; a member from the Massachusetts Medical Society, so-called; a member from Massachusetts Pharmacists Association, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts Chain Pharmacy Council, so called; a member from the Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharmacists, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, so-called; a member from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, so-called; a member from Blue Cross Blue Shield, so-called; a member from Tufts Health Plan, so-called; a member from Commonwealth Communities, so called; and a member from Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, so-called. The appointed members shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The state pharmacy council shall meet at least quarterly.

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

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