

HOUSE No. 1075

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

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 contrary, there shall be a
2 state pharmacy council which shall consist of the commissioner of public health, or designee;
3 the commissioner of insurance, or designee; the secretary of elder affairs, or designee; the
4 secretary of health and human services, or designee; three consumers, to be appointed by the
5 governor; a member from the Massachusetts Medical Society, so-called; a member from
6 Massachusetts Pharmacists Association, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts
7 Independent Pharmacists Association, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts Chain
8 Pharmacy Council, so called; a member from the Massachusetts Society of Health-System
9 Pharmacists, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, so-called; a
10 member from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, so-called; a member from Blue Cross Blue Shield,
11 so-called; a member from Tufts Health Plan, so-called; a member from Commonwealth
12 Communities, so called; and a member from Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, so-
13 called. The appointed members shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the
14 performance of their duties. The state pharmacy council shall meet at least quarterly.

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

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