

HOUSE No. 1961

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act requiring parental notice of treatment of minors for drug overdoses..

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. Section 12F of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 37 and 38, the words “minor or a
3 proper judicial order” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- minor, a proper
4 judicial order or in case of treatment for a drug overdose, as defined by department of public
5 health regulation.

6 SECTION 2. Said chapter 112, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting
7 after section 12F the following section:-

8 Section 12F ½ . Any physician or hospital that treats a person 17 years of age or younger
9 for a drug overdose, as defined by department of public health regulation, shall notify the
10 minor’s parents or legal guardians of the overdose as part of the discharge planning process for
11 the minor. The notification shall only be made in a meeting including the treating clinician and
12 the minor’s parents or guardian. The treating clinician shall provide the parents or legal
13 guardians with the current contact information for the bureau of substance abuse services within

14 the department of public health and the substance abuse hotline operated by the department of
15 public health.

16 SECTION 3. Within 60 days of the effective date of this act, the department of public
17 health shall promulgate a regulation defining the words “drug overdose”.

18 SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect 90 days from passage.