

HOUSE No. 3599

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act Establishing a Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force..

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 or regulation to the contrary, in
2 order to improve the appropriate use of controlled substances and limit their misuse and
3 diversion, there shall be established a special task force to make an investigation and study of the
4 current and potential role, including the potential expansion, of the prescription monitoring
5 program (PMP), created pursuant to joint regulations of the drug control program (see 105 CMR
6 700.006(J)) and the board of registration in pharmacy (see 247 CMR 5.04) within the department
7 of public health. The task force shall review the operation and effectiveness of similar programs
8 in other states, consider extending the PMP data collection to include scheduled drugs in addition
9 to Schedule II, and consider how best to use this information to enhance the quality and safety of
10 patient care, health care access and affordability, and public safety.

11 Section 2. The task force shall consist of 12 members, 1 of whom shall be the secretary
12 of health and human services or his designee, 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the
13 department of public health or his designee, 1 of whom shall be the director of the office of
14 medicaid or his designee, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair of the joint committee on health

15 care financing, 1 of whom shall be the house chair of the joint committee on health care
16 financing, 1 representative from the massachusetts hospital association, 1 representative from the
17 massachusetts association of community hospitals, 1 representative from the massachusetts
18 medical society, 1 representative from the massachusetts association of health plans, 1
19 representative from the office of the attorney general, 1 representative of the massachusetts
20 pharmacists association, and 1 representative of the massachusetts independent pharmacists
21 association. The task force shall be co-chaired by the senate and house chairpersons of the joint
22 committee on health care financing and shall be convened by no later than 120 days after the
23 effective date of this legislation.

24 Section 3. The task force shall file a report, with recommendations including proposed
25 legislation, with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives within 120 days after it
26 first convenes.