

SENATE No. 812

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to ensure the availability of medications in time of an emergency..

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. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 Section 25I the following section:-

3 Section 25J. The department, in order to guarantee the health and safety of citizens
4 dependent up on medication, shall develop and widely publicize a statewide plan for making
5 prescription medications available anytime a state of emergency is declared by the governor. The
6 plan shall include provisions for insurance coverage for replacement of prescription medication
7 lost or destroyed during the emergency and prescriptions that have expired; a reasonable
8 substitute will be prescribed and provided at no added cost to the citizen when local pharmacies
9 are unable to meet medication requirements and or until such a time as the original prescription
10 is again made available; the inability to obtain medications due to the breakdown or failure of
11 transportation systems. The department will also create a safety net system including a toll-free
12 number (Voice and TTY) for citizens to call during the emergency for assistance in locating life-
13 sustaining medications, in the event no medications are available to them locally.