

SENATE No. 909

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act reducing medication errors in the Commonwealth ..

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 16E(b) of Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting the following paragraphs:- “Adverse drug event”, Any injury due to medication.

3 “Medication error”, Any error occurring in the medication-use process.

4 Section 2. Section 16E of Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
5 inserting the following section:- (g) The department of public health, in consultation with the
6 center, shall create an independent expert panel to study medication errors and adverse drug
7 events. At least 1 member of the expert panel shall be a health care consumer representative. The
8 expert panel shall issue a report on the frequency, nature and location of occurrence of
9 medication errors and adverse drug events. The expert panel shall make recommendations for
10 reducing medication errors and adverse drug events across all settings of care. The expert panel
11 shall file a comprehensive report under this section with the Joint Committees on Public Health
12 and Health Care Financing no later than December 31, 2010. Based on the panel’s
13 recommendations, the department of public health shall promulgate regulations to reduce
14 medication errors in the Commonwealth.