

HOUSE No. 3696

By Mr. Sánchez of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Jeffrey Sánchez relative to sharing confidential health data with the Boston Public Health Commission pertaining to the residents of said city for the purpose of public health surveillance. Public Health. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to public health data sharing with the Boston Public Health Commission.

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. Paragraph (a) of Section 1 of appendix 2 of chapter 111 of the General
2 Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
3 “prevention,” the following words:-

4 public health surveillance,

5 SECTION 2. Section 2 of appendix 2 of chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby
6 amended by inserting the following definitions:-

7 “Department”, the Massachusetts department of public health.

8 “Division”, the Massachusetts division of health care finance and policy.

9 “Public health surveillance”, the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, interpretation,
10 and dissemination of data for use in planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health
11 programs and practice, to reduce morbidity and mortality and to improve health.

12 SECTION 3. Section 7 of appendix 2 of chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby
13 amended by inserting after subsection (a)(16), the following subsection:-

14 (17) To receive, in a timely manner, confidential health data pertaining to the residents of
15 the city from the department and the division for the purposes of public health surveillance and
16 the preparation of the annual assessment of the public health needs of the city, said health data,
17 unless specified otherwise, shall include either the zip code or census tract of the individual case
18 and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

19 (A) Records of births and deaths in the city, including address, zip code and census tract
20 for each record, no later than February 15th of the year following the closure of the data set;

21 (B) Records of infant deaths linked to birth records, including address, zip code and
22 census tract for each record, no later than February 15th of the year following the closure of the
23 data set;

24 (C) Records of fetal deaths, no later than February 15th of the year following the closure
25 of the data set;

26 (D) Case reports of HIV/AIDS diagnoses, provided that these reports shall be submitted
27 not more than one month after receipt by the department of a case report and that such case
28 reports shall include name and address for the purposes of prevention and control activities;

29 (E) Case reports of venereal disease, provided that these reports shall be submitted not
30 more than three days after identification of a case and that such case reports shall include name,
31 address, demographic, risk factor and treatment information for the purposes of surveillance,
32 prevention and disease control activities;

33 (F) Records of venereal disease cases, including address data for each case, provided
34 annually within thirty days of finalizing the annual data set;

35 (G) Records of nonfatal assault-related gunshot and stabbing injuries, reported annually;

36 (H) Data from the Massachusetts behavioral risk factor surveillance system, provided
37 within two months of finalizing data set;

38 (I) Data from the Massachusetts cancer registry, provided annually;

39 (J) Data regarding participants in the women, infants, and children program, provided
40 annually;

41 (K) Data from the pregnancy risk assessment and monitoring system, provided annually;

42 (L) For the purposes of program evaluation of substance abuse prevention and treatment
43 activities within the city, substance abuse treatment admissions data, provided once every six
44 months;

45 (M) Data of hospital discharges, provided annually;

46 (N) Data of hospital observational cases, provided annually; and

47 (O) Data of hospital emergency room visits, provided annually.