

SENATE No. 995

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven A. Tolman

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Steven A. Tolman

John F. Keenan

SENATE No. 995

By Mr. Tolman, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 995) of Keenan and Tolman for legislation to require the parental notice of the treatment of minors for drug overdoses [Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 752 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act requiring the parental notice of the 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
9 or younger for a drug overdose, as defined by department of public health regulation, shall notify
10 the minor’s parents or legal guardians of the overdose as part of the discharge planning process

11 for the minor. The notification shall only be made in a meeting including the treating clinician
12 and 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. The department of public health will design a pamphlet to be distributed in
17 emergency rooms to parents or guardians of a person 17 years of age or younger who is treated
18 for a non-fatal overdose. Said pamphlet shall include, but not be limited to: information on how
19 treatment can help, information on what a parent can do to prevent future overdoses, and
20 information on where the patient can go to get treatment.

21 SECTION 4. Within 60 days of the effective date of this act, the department of public
22 health shall promulgate a regulation defining the words "drug overdose".

23 SECTION 5. Sections 1, 2, and 3 shall take effect 90 days from passage.