

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1927**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Mark J. Cusack***

*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 relative to the substitution of interchangeable biosimilars.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Mark J. Cusack*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*5th Norfolk*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1927**

By Mr. Cusack of Braintree, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1927) of Mark J. Cusack relative to the substitution of interchangeable biosimilars. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act relative to the substitution of interchangeable biosimilars.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 12DD the  
2 following new Section:

3 Section 12EE. Biosimilar products.

4 Subsection (a). For the purposes of this Section:

5 “Biological product” means a virus, therapeutic serum, toxin, antitoxin, blood, blood  
6 component or derivative, allergenic product, protein (except any chemically synthesized  
7 polypeptide), or analogous product, or arsphenamine or derivative of arsphenamine (or any other  
8 trivalent organic arsenic compound), applicable to the prevention, treatment, or cure of a disease  
9 or condition of human beings.

10

11 “Biosimilar” or “Biosimilarity”, in reference to a biological product that is the subject of  
12 an application under subsection (k) of 42 U.S.C. 262, means:

13 (A) that the biological product is highly similar to the reference product notwithstanding  
14 minor differences in clinically inactive components; and

15 (B) there are no clinically meaningful differences between the biological product and the  
16 reference product in terms of the safety, purity, and potency of the product.

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18 “Interchangeable” or “Interchangeability”, in reference to a biological product that is  
19 shown to meet the standards described in subsection (k)(4) of 42 U.S.C. 262, means that the  
20 biological product may be substituted for the reference product without the intervention of the  
21 health care provider who prescribed the reference product.

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23 “Reference product” means the single biological product licensed under subsection (a)  
24 against which a biological product is evaluated in an application submitted under subsection (k)  
25 of 42 U.S.C. 262.

26 “Prescription”, with respect to a biological product, means an order for a product  
27 that is subject to Section 503(b) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21  
28 U.S.C. 353(b)).

29 Subsection (b). A biosimilar product determined to be interchangeable by the United  
30 States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shall be available for substitution in the  
31 Commonwealth, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, Chapter 94 of the General Laws  
32 and any other applicable laws.

33 Subsection (c). Except as provided in subsection (d), a pharmacist filling a prescription  
34 for a biological product prescribed by its trade or brand name may substitute any biosimilar  
35 product that the FDA has determined to be interchangeable with the prescribed product.

36 Subsection (d). The pharmacist shall not substitute a biosimilar product that is  
37 interchangeable with the prescribed product if the prescriber instructs otherwise, either orally or  
38 in writing, pursuant to this Chapter. Such instruction shall be on a patient-specific basis.

39 Subsection (e). No additional restrictions, limitations or requirements shall be imposed  
40 related to biological product substitution unless such restrictions, limitations or requirements also  
41 apply in the case of all other drug product substitution.