

SENATE No. 2894

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

SENATE, June 9, 2022.

The committee on Public Health, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1436) of Paul R. Feeney for legislation to establish a pilot program for specialty pharmacy in urology; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 437) of Paul McMurtry, Paul R. Feeney and others relative to a specialty pharmacy pilot program for urology, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2894).

For the committee,
Joanne M. Comerford

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An Act to establish a pilot program for specialty pharmacy in urology.

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

1 (a) The department of public health and the board of pharmacy shall jointly develop a
2 pilot program to allow urology providers in private practice to operate specialty practice
3 pharmacies in an effort to expand patient access to medications for urological conditions.

4 (b) The department of public health, in consultation with the board of pharmacy, shall
5 determine the criteria for participation in the program, including the number of practices that
6 may participate; provided that a practice must accept MassHealth patients to qualify for
7 participation in the program. The department may conduct a listening session or other public
8 process to receive input from interested parties regarding the criteria and other aspects of the
9 program.

10 (c) Each specialty practice pharmacy program shall be operated by a urology practice and
11 shall be staffed as needed to provide appropriate high-quality care, under protocols for
12 pharmaceutical services, specific medications to be offered, and staffing requirements to be
13 developed by the department of public health and the board of pharmacy.

14 (d) The department of public health shall issue a request for proposals for qualified
15 urology practices to submit proposals to become a provider of pharmaceutical services under this
16 section; provided, that proposals must be submitted and providers selected within 6 months of
17 the date of enactment of this act. In selecting participants for the program, the department and the
18 board of pharmacy shall consider each applicant's patient payer mix, patient population
19 demographics, organization structure and size, and region of service, in an effort to promote
20 more direct and equitable access to urological medication in underserved populations. The
21 department and the board should prioritize applicants that can provide high quality
22 pharmaceutical services and that address barriers that contribute to inequities in urological
23 pharmaceutical care, including among gender, race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, social
24 stigma and other social determinants of health.

25 (e) The pilot program shall be conducted for 2 years. Before the completion of 2 years of
26 operation, the department of public health and the board of pharmacy shall evaluate the results of
27 the pilot as they relate to patient access to medication, patient costs, patient adherence to
28 medication, and additional pharmaceutical indicators. The results of the evaluation shall be
29 provided to the joint committee on public health and posted on the website of the department.
30 The department and the board may renew the pilot program for a second 2-year period if they
31 determine, based on the evaluation, that it is in the public interest to continue the program.