

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cindy F. Friedman

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 enhancing health care market oversight and pharmaceutical access.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cindy F. Friedman

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Fourth Middlesex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act enhancing health care market oversight and pharmaceutical access.

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 1 of chapter 6D of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Alternative payment
3 methodologies or methods” the following 3 definitions:-

4 “Benchmark cycle”, a period of 2 consecutive calendar years during which the projected
5 annualized growth rate in total health care expenditures in the commonwealth is calculated
6 pursuant to section 9 and monitored pursuant to section 10.

7 “Biosimilar”, a drug that is produced or distributed under a biologics license application
8 approved under 42 U.S.C. 262(k)(3).

9 “Brand name drug”, a drug that is: (i) produced or distributed pursuant to an original new
10 drug application approved under 21 U.S.C. 355(c) except for: (a) any drug approved through an
11 application submitted under section 505(b)(2) of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that
12 is pharmaceutically equivalent, as that term is defined by the United States Food and Drug
13 Administration, to a drug approved under 21 U.S.C. 355(c); (b) an abbreviated new drug

14 application that was approved by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services
15 under section 505(c) of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 355(c), before the
16 date of the enactment of the federal Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of
17 1984, Public Law 98-417, 98 Stat. 1585; or (c) an authorized generic drug as defined by 42
18 C.F.R. 447.502; (ii) produced or distributed pursuant to a biologics license application approved
19 under 42 U.S.C. 262(a)(2)(C); or (iii) identified by the carrier as a brand name drug based on
20 available data resources such as Medi-Span.

21 SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further
22 amended by inserting after the definition of “Disproportionate share hospital” the following
23 definition:-

24 “Early notice”, advanced notification by a pharmaceutical manufacturing company of a:
25 (i) new drug, device or other product coming to market; or (ii) a price increase, as described in
26 subsection (b) of section 15A.

27 SECTION 3. Said section 1 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further
28 amended by striking out the definition of “Health care cost growth benchmark” and inserting in
29 place thereof the following definition:-

30 “Health care cost growth benchmark”, the projected annualized growth rate in total health
31 care expenditures in the commonwealth during a benchmark cycle, as established in section 9.

32 SECTION 4. Said section 1 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further
33 amended by inserting after the definition of “Physician” the following definition:-

34 “Pipeline drug”, a prescription drug product containing a new molecular entity for which
35 the sponsor has submitted a new drug application or biologics license application and received an
36 action date from the United States Food and Drug Administration.

37 SECTION 5. Said section 1 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further
38 amended by striking out the definition of “Provider organization” and inserting the following
39 definition:-

40 “Provider organization”, a corporation, partnership, business trust, association or
41 organized group of persons that is in the business of health care delivery or management,
42 whether incorporated or not that represents 1 or more health care providers in contracting with
43 carriers, third party administrators or public payers for the payments of health care services;
44 provided, however, that “provider organization” shall include, but not be limited to, physician
45 organizations, physician-hospital organizations, management services organizations, independent
46 practice associations, provider networks, accountable care organizations, providers that are
47 owned or controlled, fully or partially, by for-profit entities including, but not limited to,
48 significant equity investor, and any other organization that contracts with carriers, third party
49 administrators or public payers for payment for health care services.

50 SECTION 6. Said section 1 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further
51 amended by inserting after the definition of “Total health care expenditures” the following
52 definition:-

53 “Total medical expenses”, the total cost of care for the patient population associated with
54 a provider organization based on allowed claims for all categories of medical expenses and all
55 non-claims related payments to providers.

56 SECTION 7. Said section 1 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further
57 amended by adding the following definition:-

58 “Wholesale acquisition cost”, the cost of a prescription drug as defined in 42 U.S.C.
59 1395w-3a(c)(6)(B).

60 SECTION 8. Said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out
61 section 2A, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

62 Section 2A. The commission shall keep confidential all nonpublic clinical, financial,
63 strategic or operational documents or information provided or reported to the commission in
64 connection with any care delivery, quality improvement process, performance improvement
65 plan, early notification or access and affordability improvement plan activities authorized under
66 sections 7, 10, 14, 15, 15A, 24 or 25 of this chapter or under section 2GGGG of chapter 29 and
67 shall not disclose the information or documents to any person without the consent of the entity
68 providing or reporting the information or documents under said sections 7, 10, 14, 15, 15A, 24 or
69 25 of this chapter or under said section 2GGGG of said chapter 29, except in summary form in
70 evaluative reports of such activities or when the commission believes that such disclosure should
71 be made in the public interest after taking into account any privacy, trade secret or
72 anticompetitive considerations. The confidential information and documents shall not be public
73 records and shall be exempt from disclosure under clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4
74 or under chapter 66.

75 SECTION 9. Section 4 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
76 inserting after the words “biotechnology industry”, in line 7, the following words:- , at least 2
77 pharmacists, one of whom shall be an independent pharmacist.

78 SECTION 10. Section 5 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
79 inserting after the word “growth”, in line 3, the following words:- and affordability.

80 SECTION 11. Section 6 of chapter 6D, as amended by section 5 of chapter 342 of the
81 acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the
82 following subsection:-

83 (d) To the maximum extent permissible under federal law, and provided that such
84 assessment will not result in any reduction of federal financial participation in Medicaid, the
85 assessed amount for pharmaceutical manufacturing companies shall be not less than 5 per cent
86 nor more than 10 per cent of the amount appropriated by the general court for the expenses of the
87 commission minus amounts collected from: (i) filing fees; (ii) fees and charges generated by the
88 commission; and (iii) federal matching revenues received for these expenses or received
89 retroactively for expenses of predecessor agencies. Each pharmaceutical manufacturing company
90 shall pay such assessed amount multiplied by the ratio of the pharmaceutical manufacturing
91 company’s gross sales of outpatient prescription drugs dispensed in the commonwealth to the
92 total gross sales of outpatient prescription drugs dispensed in the commonwealth.

93 SECTION 12. Subsection (a) of section 8 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby
94 amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-
95 Not later than October 1 of every year, the commission shall hold public hearings based on the
96 report submitted by the center pursuant to section 16 of chapter 12C comparing: (i) the average
97 of the annual growth in total health care expenditures during each year of the most recently
98 concluded benchmark cycle to the health care cost growth benchmark for that benchmark cycle;

99 and (ii) the growth in the affordability index pursuant to said section 16 of said chapter 12C to
100 the affordability benchmark.

101 SECTION 13. Subsection (f) of said section 8 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is
102 hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following
103 sentence:- If the center's annual report pursuant to subsection (a) of section 16 of chapter 12C
104 finds that the average of the annual percentage changes in total health care expenditures during a
105 benchmark cycle exceeded the health care cost growth benchmark for that benchmark cycle or
106 the percentage change in the affordability index exceeded the affordability benchmark, the
107 commission may identify additional witnesses for the public hearing.

108 SECTION 14. Said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking
109 out sections 9 and 10 and inserting in place thereof the following 3 sections:-

110 Section 9. (a) Not later than April 15 of every year, the board shall establish the health
111 care cost growth benchmark for a benchmark cycle consisting of the 2 calendar years beginning
112 after the year in which the April 15 date occurs.

113 (b) The health care cost growth benchmark shall be equal to the average of the growth
114 rate of potential gross state product established under section 7H½ of chapter 29 for each of the 2
115 calendar years that comprise the benchmark cycle. The commission shall establish procedures to
116 prominently publish the health care cost growth benchmark on the commission's website.

117 (c) For all benchmark cycles through the cycle containing the calendar years 2039 and
118 2040, if the commission determines that an adjustment in the health care cost growth benchmark
119 is reasonably warranted, having first considered any testimony at a public hearing as required
120 under subsection (d), the board of the commission may recommend a modification of the health

121 care cost growth benchmark, in any amount as determined by the commission. The board shall
122 submit notice of its recommendation for any modification to the joint committee on health care
123 financing. Within 30 days of such filing, the joint committee may hold a public hearing on the
124 board's proposed modification to the health care cost growth benchmark. Within 30 days of the
125 public hearing, the joint committee may report its findings and proposed legislation, including its
126 recommendation on whether to affirm or reject the boards' recommendation, to the general court
127 and provide a copy of its findings and proposed legislation to the board.

128 (d) Prior to making any recommended modification to the health care cost growth
129 benchmark under subsection (c), the board shall hold a public hearing on any such recommended
130 modification. The public hearing shall be based on the report submitted by the center pursuant to
131 section 16 of chapter 12C comparing the average of the annual growth in total health care
132 expenditures during each year of the most recently concluded benchmark cycle to the health care
133 cost growth benchmark, any other data provided by the center and such other pertinent
134 information or data as may be available to the board. The hearing shall examine the costs, prices
135 and cost trends of health care provider, provider organization and private and public health care
136 payer and any relevant impact of significant equity investors, health care real estate investment
137 trusts, management services organizations, pharmaceutical manufacturing companies and
138 pharmacy benefit managers on such costs, prices and cost trends, with particular attention to
139 factors that contribute to cost growth within the commonwealth's health care system and
140 whether, based on the testimony, information and data presented at the hearing, a modification in
141 the health care cost growth benchmark is appropriate. The commission shall provide public
142 notice of such hearing not less than 45 days prior to the date of the hearing, including notice to
143 the joint committee on health care financing. The joint committee on health care financing may

144 participate in the hearing. The commission shall identify as witnesses for the public hearing a
145 representative sample of providers, provider organizations, payers, significant equity investors,
146 health care real estate investment trusts, management services organizations, pharmaceutical
147 manufacturing companies, pharmacy benefit managers and such other interested parties as the
148 commission may determine. Any other interested parties may testify at the hearing.

149 (e) Any recommendation of the commission to modify the health care cost growth
150 benchmark under subsection (c) of this section shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the
151 board.

152 Section 9A. Not later than April 15 of every year, the board shall establish a health care
153 affordability benchmark for the following calendar year. The commission shall establish
154 procedures to prominently publish the annual affordability benchmark on the commission's
155 website.

156 Section 10. (a) For the purpose of this section, "Health care entity" shall mean any health
157 care entity identified by the center pursuant to section 18 of chapter 12C.

158 (b) The commission shall provide notice to a health care entity that the commission may
159 analyze the health care spending performance of such health care entity and that such health care
160 entity shall perform certain actions as provided in subsection (c); provided, however, that at the
161 discretion of the commission, the commission may publicly identify the identities and
162 performance results of such health care entity.

163 (c) The commission may require a performance improvement plan to be filed with the
164 commission for a health care entity that is identified by the center under section 18 of chapter
165 12C.

166 (d) In addition to the notice provided under subsection (b), the commission shall provide
167 written notice to a health care entity that it determines must file a performance improvement
168 plan. Within 45 days of receipt of such written notice, the health care entity shall either:

169 (1) file a performance improvement plan with the commission; or

170 (2) file an application with the commission to waive or extend the requirement to file a
171 performance improvement plan.

172 (e) The health care entity may file documentation or supporting evidence with the
173 commission to support the health care entity's application to waive or extend the requirement to
174 file a performance improvement plan. The commission shall require the health care entity to
175 submit any other relevant information it deems necessary in considering the waiver or extension
176 application; provided, however, that such information shall be made public at the discretion of
177 the commission.

178 (f) The commission may waive or delay the requirement for a health care entity to file a
179 performance improvement plan in response to a waiver or extension request filed under
180 subsection (d) in light of all information received from the health care entity, based on a
181 consideration of the following factors:

182 (1) the spending, price and utilization trends of the health care entity over time,
183 independently and as compared to similar entities, and any demonstrated improvement to reduce
184 spending or total medical expenses;

185 (2) any ongoing strategies or investments that the health care entity is implementing to
186 improve future long-term efficiency and reduce spending growth;

187 (3) whether the factors that led to increased spending for the health care entity can
188 reasonably be considered to be unanticipated and outside of the control of the entity. Such factors
189 may include, but shall not be limited to, age and other health status adjusted factors and other
190 cost inputs such as pharmaceutical expenses, medical device expenses and labor costs;

191 (4) the overall financial condition of the health care entity;

192 (5) a significant difference between the growth rate of potential gross state product and
193 the growth rate of actual gross state product, as determined under section 7H½ of chapter 29; and

194 (6) any other factors the commission considers relevant.

195 (g) If the commission declines to waive or extend the requirement for the health care
196 entity to file a performance improvement plan, the commission shall provide written notice to the
197 health care entity that its application for a waiver or extension was denied and the health care
198 entity shall file a performance improvement plan.

199 (h) A health care entity shall file a performance improvement plan: (1) within 45 days of
200 receipt of a notice under subsection (d); (2) if the health care entity has requested a waiver or
201 extension, within 45 days of receipt of a notice that such waiver or extension has been denied; or
202 (3) if the health care entity is granted an extension, on the date given on such extension. The
203 performance improvement plan shall identify the causes of the entity's excessive spending, and
204 shall include, but not be limited to, specific strategies, adjustments and action steps the entity
205 proposes to implement to improve spending performance. The proposed performance
206 improvement plan shall include specific identifiable and measurable expected outcomes and a
207 timetable for implementation. The timetable for a performance improvement plan shall not
208 exceed 18 months.

209 (i) The commission shall approve any performance improvement plan that it determines
210 is reasonably likely to address the underlying cause of the health care entity's excessive spending
211 and has a reasonable expectation for successful implementation.

212 (j) If the board determines that the performance improvement plan is unacceptable or
213 incomplete, the commission may provide consultation on the criteria that have not been met and
214 may allow an additional time period of not more than 30 calendar days, for resubmission.

215 (k) Upon approval of the proposed performance improvement plan, the commission shall
216 notify the health care entity to begin implementation of the performance improvement plan.
217 Public notice shall be provided by the commission on its website, identifying that the health care
218 entity is implementing a performance improvement plan. Health care entities implementing an
219 approved performance improvement plan shall be subject to additional reporting requirements
220 and compliance monitoring, as determined by the commission. The commission shall assist the
221 health care entity with the successful implementation of the performance improvement plan.

222 (l) Health care entities subject to a performance improvement plan shall, in good faith,
223 work to implement such plan and may file amendments to the performance improvement plan at
224 any point during the implementation of the performance improvement plan, subject to approval
225 of the commission.

226 (m) At the conclusion of the timetable established in the performance improvement plan,
227 the health care entity shall report to the commission regarding the outcome of the performance
228 improvement plan. If the commission finds that the performance improvement plan was
229 unsuccessful, the commission shall either: (i) extend the implementation timetable of the existing
230 performance improvement plan; (ii) approve amendments to the performance improvement plan

231 as proposed by the health care entity; (iii) require the health care entity to submit a new
232 performance improvement plan under subsection (c), including requiring specific elements for
233 approval; or (iv) waive or delay the requirement to file any additional performance improvement
234 plans.

235 (n) Upon the successful completion of the performance improvement plan, the identity of
236 the health care entity shall be removed from the list of entities currently implementing a
237 performance improvement plan on the commission's website.

238 (o) The commission may submit a recommendation for proposed legislation to the joint
239 committee on health care financing if the commission determines that further legislative
240 authority is needed to achieve the commonwealth's health care quality and spending
241 sustainability objectives, assist health care entities with the implementation of performance
242 improvement plans or otherwise ensure compliance with the provisions of this section.

243 (p)(1) If the commission determines that a health care entity has: (i) willfully neglected to
244 file a performance improvement plan with the commission within 45 days as required under
245 subsection (d); (ii) failed to file an acceptable performance improvement plan in good faith with
246 the commission; (iii) failed to implement the performance improvement plan in good faith; or
247 (iv) knowingly failed to provide or falsified information required by this section to the
248 commission, the commission may: (A) assess a civil penalty to the health care entity of not more
249 than \$500,000 for a first violation, not more than \$750,000 for a second violation and not more
250 than the amount of spending attributable to the health care entity that is in excess of the health
251 care cost growth benchmark for a third or subsequent violation; provided, however, that a civil
252 penalty assessed pursuant to one of the above clauses shall be a first offense if a previously

253 assessed penalty was assessed pursuant to a different clause; (B) stay consideration of any
254 material change notice submitted under section 13 of this chapter by the health care entity or any
255 affiliates until the commission determines that the health care entity is in compliance with this
256 section; and (C) notify the department of public health that the health care entity, if applying for
257 a notice of determination of need, is not in compliance with this section. A civil penalty assessed
258 under this subsection shall be deposited into the Healthcare Payment Reform Fund established
259 under section 100 of chapter 194 of the acts of 2011. Except as otherwise expressly authorized
260 under this section, the commission shall seek to promote compliance with this section and shall
261 only impose a civil penalty as a last resort.

262 (q) The commission shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement this section;
263 provided, however, that notice of any proposed regulations shall be filed with the joint
264 committee on state administration and regulatory oversight and the joint committee on health
265 care financing not less than 180 days before adoption.

266 SECTION 15. Section 11 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
267 striking out, in line 3, the words “2 years” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- 1
268 year.

269 SECTION 16. Said section 11 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further
270 amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

271 (b) The commission shall require that all provider organizations report information
272 detailed in section 9 of chapter 12C. The commission may specify additional data elements in a
273 given reporting year to support the development of the state health plan or the focused
274 assessments defined in section 22 of chapter 6D.

275 SECTION 17. Said section 11 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further
276 amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

277 (d) The commission may enter into interagency agreements with the center and other
278 state agencies to effectuate the goals of this section.

279 SECTION 18. Said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking
280 out section 12 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

281 Section 12. (a) The commission shall ensure the timely reporting of information required
282 under section 11. The commission shall notify provider organizations of any applicable reporting
283 deadlines; provided, that the commission shall notify, in writing, a provider organization that has
284 failed to meet a reporting deadline and that failure to respond within 2 weeks of the receipt of the
285 notice may result in penalties. The commission may assess a penalty against a provider
286 organization that fails, without just cause, to provide the requested information within 2 weeks
287 following receipt of the written notice required under this subsection of up to \$10,000 per week
288 for each week of delay after the 2-week period following provider organization's receipt of the
289 written notice; provided, however, that the maximum annual penalty against a provider
290 organization under this section shall be \$500,000 per registration cycle. Amounts collected under
291 this section shall be deposited in the Healthcare Payment Reform Fund established under section
292 100 of chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011.

293 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any material change
294 notice submitted under section 13 and any determination of need application submitted under
295 sections 25B to 25G, inclusive, of chapter 111 by a provider organization that has failed to

296 provide required information pursuant to section 9 and section 11 of chapter 12C shall be
297 incomplete until such time as the provider organization has provided such required information.

298 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall require a provider organization which represents
299 providers who collectively receive, less than \$25,000,000 in annual net patient service revenue to
300 be registered if such provider or provider organization is not a risk-bearing provider organization
301 or is not owned or controlled, whether fully or partially, directly or indirectly, by a significant
302 equity investor.

303 SECTION 19. Subsection (a) of section 13 of said chapter 6D, as amended by section 24
304 of chapter 343 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph and
305 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

306 Within 30 days of receipt of a completed notice filed under the commission's regulations,
307 the commission shall conduct a preliminary review to determine whether the material change is
308 likely to result in: (i) a significant impact on the commonwealth's ability to meet the health care
309 cost growth benchmark established in section 9; (ii) a significant impact on the competitive
310 market; or (iii) a significant negative impact on Massachusetts health care consumers, including,
311 not limited to: (A) significantly increased costs; (B) significantly reduced quality; or (C)
312 significantly impaired access to health care services, including for at-risk, underserved an
313 government payer patient populations. If the commission finds that the material change is likely
314 to result in a significant impact on the commonwealth's ability to meet the health care cost
315 growth benchmark, on the competitive market, or on Massachusetts health care consumers, the
316 commission may conduct a cost and market impact review under this section.

317 SECTION 20. Said section 13 of said chapter 6D, as amended by section 24 of chapter
318 343 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place
319 thereof the following subsection:-

320 (b) In addition to the grounds for a cost and market impact review set forth in subsection
321 (a), if the commission finds, based on the center’s benchmark cycle report under section 16 of
322 chapter 12C, that the average of the annual percentage changes in total health care expenditures
323 during each year of the benchmark cycle exceeded the health care cost growth benchmark for
324 that benchmark cycle, the commission may conduct a cost and market impact review of any
325 provider organization identified by the center under section 18 of said chapter 12C.

326 SECTION 21. Said section 13 of said chapter 6D, as amended by section 24 of chapter
327 343 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (e) through subsection (l),
328 inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following subsections:

329 (e)(1) The commission shall make factual findings and issue a preliminary report on the
330 cost and market impact review.

331 (2) In the report, the commission shall identify whether the proposed material change is
332 likely to have a significant negative impact on Massachusetts health care consumers, including
333 through significantly increased costs, significantly reduced quality, or significantly impaired
334 access to health care services, including for at-risk, underserved and government payer patient
335 populations. The commission’s report shall identify the specific significant negative impacts
336 anticipated and recommend modifications to the proposed material change to mitigate such
337 impacts.

338 (3) In the report, the commission shall identify any provider or provider organization that
339 meets all of the following criteria: (i) the provider or provider organization has, or likely will
340 have as a result of the proposed material change, a dominant market share for the services it
341 provides; (ii) the provider or provider organization charges, or likely will charge as a result of the
342 proposed material change, prices for services that are materially higher than the median prices
343 charged by comparable providers for the same services in the same market; and (iii) the provider
344 or provider organization has, or likely will have as a result of the proposed material change, a
345 health status adjusted total medical expense that is materially higher than the median total
346 medical expense of comparable providers in the same market.

347 (f)(1) Within 30 days after issuance of a preliminary report, the provider or provider
348 organization may respond in writing to the findings in the report. In its response, the provider or
349 provider organization may identify any modifications it will make to the proposed material
350 change to address any significant negative impacts on consumers identified in the commission's
351 report. The commission shall then issue its final report.

352 (2) The commission shall refer to the attorney general its report on any proposed material
353 change likely to result in significant harm to Massachusetts health care consumers.

354 (3) The commission shall refer to the attorney general its report on provider or provider
355 organization that meets all 3 criteria under paragraph (3) of subsection (e).

356 (4) The commission shall issue its final report on the cost and market impact review
357 within 185 days from the date that the provider or provider organization has submitted a
358 completed notice to the commission; provided, that the provider or provider organization has
359 certified substantial compliance with the commission's requests for data and information

360 pursuant to subsection (c) within 21 days of the commission’s notice, or by a later date set by
361 mutual agreement of the provider or provider organization and the commission.

362 (g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a proposed material change under subsection (a);
363 provided, however, that any proposed material change shall not be completed: (i) until at least 30
364 days after the commission has issued its final report; or (ii) if the attorney general brings an
365 action under chapter 93A or any other law related to the material change, while such action is
366 pending and prior to a final judgment being issued by a court of competent jurisdiction,
367 whichever is later.

368 (h)(1) A material change with a significant negative impact on Massachusetts health care
369 consumers, including through significantly increased costs, significantly reduced quality, or
370 significantly impaired access to health care services, including for at-risk, underserved and
371 government payer patient populations, shall constitute an unfair method of competition or unfair
372 trade practice under chapter 93A subject to challenge pursuant to section 4 but not sections 9 or
373 11 of said chapter 93A. When the commission, under paragraph (2) of subsection (f), refers a
374 report on a provider or provider organization to the attorney general, the report shall create a
375 presumption that the provider or provider organization through the material change addressed in
376 the report will have a significant negative impact on Massachusetts health care consumers and
377 therefore through the material change will engage in an unfair practice in violation of chapter
378 93A. The attorney general may take action under chapter 93A or any other law to protect
379 consumers in the health care market, including by bringing an action seeking to restrain such
380 violation of chapter 93A. The commission’s report shall be evidence in any such action brought
381 by the attorney general.

382 (2) A provider or provider organization that meets the criteria in paragraph (3) of
383 subsection (e) and makes a material change has engaged in an unfair method of competition or
384 unfair and deceptive trade practice subject to challenge pursuant to section 4, but not sections 9
385 or 11, of chapter 93A. When the commission, under paragraph (3) of subsection (f), refers a
386 report on a provider or provider organization to the attorney general, the report shall create a
387 presumption that the provider or provider organization has met or through the material change
388 addressed in the report will meet the 3 criteria in paragraph (3) of subsection (e) and therefore
389 through a material change will engage in an unfair method of competition or unfair and
390 deceptive trade practice in violation of chapter 93A. The attorney general may take action under
391 chapter 93A or any other law to protect consumers in the health care market, including by
392 bringing an action seeking to restrain such violation of chapter 93A. The commission's final
393 report shall be evidence in any such action brought by the attorney general.

394 (i) Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the attorney general to protect
395 consumers in the health care market under any other law.

396 (j) The commission shall adopt regulations for conducting cost and market impact
397 reviews and for administering this section. These regulations shall include definitions of material
398 change and non-material change, primary service areas, dispersed service areas, dominant market
399 share, materially higher prices and materially higher health status adjusted total medical
400 expenses, and any other terms as necessary to provide market participants with appropriate
401 notice. These regulations may identify filing thresholds in connection with this section; provided,
402 however, that any financial threshold identified by the commission shall be adjusted annually
403 based on any inflation index established by the United States Department of Health and Human

404 Services or similarly reliable national index, as set forth by the commission. All regulations
405 promulgated by the commission shall comply with chapter 30A.

406 (k) Nothing in this section shall limit the application of other laws or regulations that may
407 be applicable to a provider or provider organization, including laws and regulations governing
408 insurance.

409 (l) Upon issuance of its final report pursuant to subsection (f), the commission shall
410 provide a copy of said final report to the department of public health. The final report shall be
411 included in the written record and considered by the department of public health during its
412 review of an application for determination of need and considered where relevant in connection
413 with licensure or other regulatory actions involving the provider or provider organization.

414 SECTION 22. Said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting
415 after section 15 the following section:-

416 Section 15A. (a) A pharmaceutical manufacturing company shall provide early notice to
417 the commission in a manner described in this section for a: (i) pipeline drug; (ii) generic drug; or
418 (iii) biosimilar drug. The commission shall provide nonconfidential information received under
419 this section to the office of Medicaid, the division of insurance and the group insurance
420 commission.

421 Early notice under this subsection shall be submitted to the commission in writing not
422 later than 30 days after receipt of the United States Food and Drug Administration approval date.

423 For each pipeline drug, early notice shall include a brief description of the: (i) primary
424 disease, health condition or therapeutic area being studied and the indication; (ii) route of

425 administration being studied; (iii) clinical trial comparators; and (iv) estimated date of market
426 entry. To the extent possible, information shall be collected using data fields consistent with
427 those used by the federal National Institutes of Health for clinical trials.

428 For each pipeline drug, early notice shall include whether the drug has been designated
429 by the United States Food and Drug Administration: (i) as an orphan drug; (ii) for fast track; (iii)
430 as a breakthrough therapy; (iv) for accelerated approval; or (v) for priority review for a new
431 molecular entity; provided, however, that notwithstanding clause (v), submissions for drugs in
432 development that are designated as new molecular entities by the United States Food and Drug
433 Administration shall be provided as soon as practical upon receipt of the relevant designations.
434 For each generic drug, early notice shall include a copy of the drug label approved by the United
435 States Food and Drug Administration.

436 (b) A pharmaceutical manufacturing company shall provide early notice to the
437 commission if it plans to increase the wholesale acquisition cost of a: (i) brand-name drug by
438 more than 15 per cent per wholesale acquisition cost unit during any 12-month period; or (ii)
439 generic drug or biosimilar drug with a significant price increase as determined by the
440 commission during any 12-month period. The commission shall provide non-confidential
441 information received under this section to the office of Medicaid, the division of insurance and
442 the group insurance commission.

443 Early notice under this subsection shall be submitted to the commission in writing not
444 less than 60 days before the planned effective date of the increase.

445 A pharmaceutical manufacturing company required to notify the commission of a price
446 increase under this subsection shall, not less than 30 days before the planned effective date of the

447 increase, report to the commission any information regarding the price increase that is relevant to
448 the commission including, but not limited to: (i) drug identification information; (ii) drug sales
449 volume information; (iii) wholesale price and related information for the drug; (iv) net price and
450 related information for the drug; (v) drug acquisition information, if applicable; (vi) revenue
451 from the sale of the drug; and (vii) manufacturer costs.

452 (c) The commission shall conduct an annual study of pharmaceutical manufacturing
453 companies subject to the requirements in subsections (a) and (b). The commission may contract
454 with a third-party entity to implement this section.

455 (d) If a pharmaceutical manufacturing company fails to timely comply with the
456 requirements under subsection (a) or subsection (b), or otherwise knowingly obstructs the
457 commission's ability to receive early notice under this section, including, but not limited to,
458 providing incomplete, false or misleading information, the commission may impose appropriate
459 sanctions against the manufacturer, including reasonable monetary penalties not to exceed
460 \$500,000, in each instance. The commission shall seek to promote compliance with this section
461 and shall only impose a civil penalty on the manufacturer as a last resort. Amounts collected
462 under this section shall be deposited into the Prescription Drug Cost Assistance Trust Fund
463 established in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29.

464 SECTION 23. Section 22 of said chapter 6D, as inserted by section 24 of chapter 343 of
465 the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in place thereof
466 the following subsection:-

467 (c) The office shall provide direction to the center to establish and maintain on a current
468 basis an inventory of all such health care resources together with all other reasonably pertinent

469 information concerning such resources. Agencies of the commonwealth that license, register,
470 regulate or otherwise collect cost, quality or other data concerning health care resources shall
471 cooperate with the office and the center in coordinating such data and information collected
472 pursuant to this section and section 9 of chapter 12C. The inventory compiled pursuant to this
473 section and said section 9 of said chapter 12C and all related information shall be maintained in a
474 form usable by the general public and shall constitute a public record; provided, however, that
475 any item of information which is confidential or privileged in nature under any other law shall
476 not be regarded as a public record pursuant to this section.

477 SECTION 24. Said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the
478 following 3 sections:-

479 Section 24. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
480 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

481 “Eligible drug”, (i) a brand name drug or biologic, not including a biosimilar, that has a
482 launch wholesale acquisition cost of \$50,000 or more for a 1-year supply or full course of
483 treatment; (ii) a biosimilar drug that has a launch wholesale acquisition cost that is not at least 15
484 per cent lower than the referenced brand biologic at the time the biosimilar is launched; (iii) a
485 public health essential drug, as defined in subsection (f) of section 13 of chapter 17, with a
486 significant price increase over a defined period of time as determined by the commission by
487 regulation or with a wholesale acquisition cost of \$25,000 or more for a 1-year supply or full
488 course of treatment; (iv) all drugs, continuous glucose monitoring system components, all
489 components of the continuous glucose monitoring system of which the component is a part and,
490 when applicable, delivery devices selected pursuant to section 17Z of chapter 32A, section 10Z

491 of chapter 118E, section 47CCC of chapter 175, section 8DD of chapter 176A, section 4DDD of
492 chapter 176B and section 4VV of chapter 176G; or (v) other prescription drug products that may
493 have a direct and significant impact on, and create affordability challenges for, the state’s health
494 care system and patients, by contributing to increased premiums, patient out-of-pocket costs, or
495 for similar reasons, as determined by the commission; provided, however, that the commission
496 shall promulgate regulations to establish the type of prescription drug products classified under
497 clause (v) prior to classification of any such prescription drug product under said clause (v).

498 “Manufacturer”, a pharmaceutical manufacturer of an eligible drug, or, when applicable,
499 the manufacturer of a delivery device selected pursuant to section 17Z of chapter 32A, section
500 10Z of chapter 118E, section 47CCC of chapter 175, section 8DD of chapter 176A, section
501 4DDD of chapter 176B and section 4VV of chapter 176G.

502 “Public health essential drug”, shall have the same meaning as defined in subsection (f)
503 of section 13 of chapter 17.

504 (b)(1) The commission shall review: (i) the impact of eligible drug costs on patient
505 access, such as by significantly contributing to high patient out-of-pocket costs compared to
506 other drugs, increased utilization management compared to other drugs, lack of coverage by
507 payers, or similar factors as determined by the commission; and (ii) the extent to which eligible
508 drug costs have created or likely will create affordability challenges for the state’s health care
509 system and patients, such as by contributing significantly to increased premiums or patient out-
510 of-pocket costs compared to other drugs, or similar factors, as determined by the commission;
511 provided, however, that the commission may prioritize the review of eligible drugs based on the
512 significance of the potential impact to patients.

- 513 (2) In conducting a review of eligible drugs, the commission shall consider:
- 514 (i) the relevant factors contributing to the price paid in the state for the drug, including
515 the wholesale acquisition cost, discounts, rebates, or other price concessions;
- 516 (ii) the average patient co-pay or other cost-sharing for the drug in the state;
- 517 (iii) whether the cost of the drug contributes to inequities in health care access or
518 outcomes;
- 519 (iv) the price and availability of therapeutic alternatives in the state;
- 520 (v) input from patients affected by the condition or disease treated by the drug and
521 individuals with medical or scientific expertise related to the condition or disease treated by the
522 drug;
- 523 (vi) input from other stakeholders, which may include, but shall not be limited to: patient
524 advocacy organizations, consumer advocacy organizations, providers, provider organizations and
525 payers; and
- 526 (vii) any other factors the commission deems relevant.

527 (3) In conducting a review of eligible drugs, the commission may request relevant
528 information from the manufacturer of said eligible drug. Upon receiving a request for
529 information from the commission, a manufacturer shall disclose to the commission, within a
530 reasonable time period, as determined by the commission, applicable information relating to the
531 manufacturer's pricing of an eligible drug.

532 (4) The disclosed information shall be on a standard reporting form developed by the
533 commission with the input of the manufacturers and shall include, but not be limited to:

534 (i) a schedule of the drug's wholesale acquisition cost increases over the previous 5
535 calendar years;

536 (ii) the total amount of federal and state tax credits, incentives, grants and other subsidies
537 provided to the manufacturer over the previous 10 calendar years that have been used to assist in
538 the research and development of eligible drugs;

539 (iii) the manufacturer's aggregate, company-level research and development and other
540 relevant capital expenditures, including facility construction, for the most recent year for which
541 final audited data are available;

542 (iv) a narrative description, absent proprietary information and written in plain language,
543 of factors that contributed to reported changes in wholesale acquisition cost during the previous 5
544 calendar years;

545 (v) information regarding the drug's prices, net of rebates, internationally, nationally, and
546 in Massachusetts; and

547 (vi) any other information that the manufacturer wishes to provide to the commission or
548 that the commission requests.

549 (c)(1) Based on the records and information provided under subsection (b), available
550 information from the center, from an outside third party, or that is otherwise available to the
551 commission or any of its subdivisions, the commission shall identify a proposed value for the
552 eligible drug. In identifying proposed values for eligible drugs, the commission may prioritize

553 drugs based on the commission's determination of the significance of the drug cost's impact on
554 patient access or the extent to which the drug's cost have created or likely will create
555 affordability challenges for the state's health care system or patients.

556 (2) The commission shall base the proposed value on:

557 (i) the cost of delivering and administering the drug;

558 (ii) the status of the drug on the drug shortage list published by the Food and Drug
559 Administration;

560 (iii) the drug's status as an orphan drug; and

561 (iv) other factors the commission deems relevant in determining a drug's value.

562 (3) The commission may request additional relevant information from the manufacturer
563 and from other entities, including, but not limited to, pharmacy benefit managers and payers, and
564 may base the proposed value on this additional information.

565 (4) Any information, analyses or reports regarding an eligible drug review shall be
566 provided to the manufacturer. The commission shall consider any clarifications or data provided
567 by the manufacturer with respect to the eligible drug. The commission shall not base its
568 determination on the proposed value of the eligible drug solely on the analysis or research of an
569 outside third party and shall not employ a measure or metric that assigns a reduced value to the
570 life extension provided by a treatment based on a pre-existing disability or chronic health
571 condition of the individuals whom the treatment would benefit. If the commission relies upon a
572 third party to provide cost-effectiveness analysis or research related to the proposed value of the
573 eligible drug, such analysis or research shall also include, but not be limited to: (i) a description

574 of the methodologies and models used in its analysis; (ii) any assumptions and potential
575 limitations of research findings in the context of the results; and (iii) outcomes for affected
576 subpopulations that utilize the drug, including, but not limited to, potential impacts on
577 individuals of marginalized racial or ethnic groups and on individuals with specific disabilities or
578 health conditions who regularly utilize the eligible drug.

579 (d) If, after review of an eligible drug the commission determines that the cost of the
580 eligible drug does not substantially exceed the proposed value of the drug, the commission shall
581 notify the manufacturer, in writing, of its determination and shall evaluate other ways to mitigate
582 the eligible drug's cost in order to improve patient access to the eligible drug; provided,
583 however, that the commission shall determine a threshold establishing how much more a drug
584 must cost than the proposed value to substantially exceed the proposed value; and provided
585 further, that the threshold shall require the cost to be at least 15 per cent above the proposed
586 value. The commission may engage with the manufacturer and other relevant stakeholders,
587 including, but not limited to, patients, patient advocacy organizations, consumer advocacy
588 organizations, providers, provider organizations and payers, to explore options for mitigating the
589 cost of the eligible drug. Upon the conclusion of a stakeholder engagement process under this
590 subsection, the commission shall issue recommendations on ways to reduce the cost of the
591 eligible drug for the purpose of improving patient access to the eligible drug. Recommendations
592 may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) an alternative payment plan or methodology; (ii) a
593 bulk purchasing program; (iii) co-payment, deductible, co-insurance or other cost-sharing
594 restrictions; and (iv) a reinsurance program to subsidize the cost of the eligible drug. The
595 recommendations shall be publicly posted on the commission's website and provided to the
596 clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the joint committee on health care financing

597 and the house and senate committees on ways and means; provided, however, that the report
598 shall be published on the website of the commission.

599 (e) If, after review of an eligible drug, the commission determines that the cost of the
600 eligible drug substantially exceeds the proposed value of the drug, the commission shall request
601 that the manufacturer provide further information related to the pricing of the eligible drug and
602 the manufacturer's reasons for the pricing not later than 30 days after receiving the request. The
603 commission shall also notify the manufacturer that the manufacturer may agree to undertake
604 actions that will lower the cost of the drug for units of the drugs that are dispensed or
605 administered to an individual in the state in person, by mail, or by other means. The
606 manufacturer shall respond with such actions within 30 days of receiving the notification.

607 (f) The commission may revise the proposed value for an eligible drug based on the
608 information provided pursuant to subsection (e). Not later than 60 days after receiving
609 information from the manufacturer under subsection (b) or subsection (e), if any, and actions
610 agreed to by the manufacturer to lower the cost of the drug under subsection (e), if any, the
611 commission shall publicly issue a determination on whether the cost of an eligible drug
612 substantially exceeds the commission's proposed value of the drug. If the commission
613 determines that the cost of an eligible drug substantially exceeds the proposed value of the drug,
614 the commission shall confidentially notify the manufacturer, in writing, of its determination and
615 may set an upper payment limit for the drug under section 25. (g) Records disclosed by a

616 manufacturer under this section shall: (i) be accompanied by an attestation that all information
617 provided is true and correct; (ii) not be public records under clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of
618 chapter 4 or under chapter 66; and (iii) remain confidential; provided, however, that the
619 commission may produce reports summarizing any findings; provided further, that any such

620 report shall not be in a form that identifies specific prices charged for or rebate amounts
621 associated with drugs by a manufacturer or in a manner that is likely to compromise the
622 financial, competitive or proprietary nature of the information.

623 Any request for further information made by the commission under subsection (e) or any
624 determination issued or written notification made by the commission under subsection (f) shall
625 not be public records under said clause Twenty-sixth of said section 7 of said chapter 4 or under
626 said chapter 66.

627 In issuing public determinations under subsection (f), the commission shall not identify
628 specific prices charged for, or rebate amounts associated with, drugs by a manufacturer or in a
629 manner that is likely to compromise the financial, competitive or proprietary nature of the
630 information. Such prices or rebates shall not be public records under said clause Twenty-sixth of
631 said section 7 of said chapter 4 or under said chapter 66.

632 (h) The commission's proposed value of an eligible drug and the commission's
633 underlying analysis of the eligible drug is not intended to be used to determine whether any
634 individual patient meets prior authorization or utilization management criteria for the eligible
635 drug. The proposed value and underlying analysis shall not be the sole factor in determining
636 whether a drug is included in a formulary or whether the drug is subject to step therapy.

637 (i) The commission shall be permitted to request relevant information to effectuate the
638 purposes of this section. This information may include, but shall not be limited to, drug pricing,
639 utilization, and other relevant information from manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers,
640 wholesalers, payers, providers, provider organizations, and third parties. To the extent
641 practicable, in collecting said information the commission shall collaborate with the center to

642 avoid collecting duplicative information and reduce the administrative burden on the entities
643 providing the information.

644 If a manufacturer fails to timely comply with the commission's request for records under
645 subsection (b) or subsection (e), or otherwise knowingly obstructs the commission's ability to
646 issue its determination under subsection (f), including, but not limited to, by providing
647 incomplete, false or misleading information, the commission may impose appropriate sanctions
648 against the manufacturer, including reasonable monetary penalties not to exceed \$500,000, in
649 each instance. The commission shall seek to promote compliance with this section and shall only
650 impose a civil penalty on the manufacturer as a last resort. Penalties collected under this
651 subsection shall be deposited into the Prescription Drug Cost Assistance Trust Fund established
652 in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29.

653 The failure of any entity to provide any requested information to the commission or the
654 center, or the failure of a manufacturer to agree to undertake actions to lower the cost of a drug
655 pursuant to subsection (e), shall not impair the commission's ability to exercise the commission's
656 authority under this section or section 25.

657 (j) The commission shall adopt any written policies, procedures or regulations that the
658 commission determines are necessary to effectuate the purpose of this section.

659 Section 25. (a) Upon providing written notice provided under subsection (f) of section 24,
660 the commission may set an upper payment limit for an eligible drug if the cost of the eligible
661 drug substantially exceeds the commission's proposed value of the drug.

662 (b) The upper payment limit shall be based on the proposed value for the eligible drug;
663 provided, however, that if the commission revised the proposed value pursuant to subsection (f)

664 of section 24, the upper payment limit shall be based on the drug's revised proposed value. The
665 commission may annually raise a drug's upper payment limit to account for inflation. An upper
666 payment limit does not include a pharmacy dispensing fee and nothing in this section shall be
667 interpreted to prevent a retail pharmacy from receiving a payment that includes a dispensing fee
668 above the upper payment limit.

669 (c) The upper payment limit applies to all purchases of the drug and reimbursements for a
670 claim for the drug when the drug is dispensed or administered to an individual in the state in
671 person, by mail, or by other means. The commission shall adopt regulations to ensure that the
672 upper payment limit does not apply to transactions or entities that federal law prohibits states
673 from regulating.

674 (d) Upper payment limits shall become effective six months after the commission has
675 issued a public determination under subsection (f) of section 24 and shall apply only to
676 purchases, contracts, and plans that are issued on or renewed after the upper payment limit goes
677 into effect.

678 (e) A self-insured plan governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of
679 1974 may elect to be subject to the upper payment limits.

680 (f) The commission may suspend an upper payment limit if the commission determines
681 that there is a shortage of the drug in the state, unless the commission determines that the
682 shortage was caused by a manufacturer or the manufacturer's agent due to the commission
683 establishing an upper payment limit for the drug.

684 (g) Any manufacturer or wholesaler that intends to withdraw from sale or distribution
685 within the state a drug for which the commission has established an upper payment limit shall

686 provide a notice of withdrawal in writing at least 6 months before the withdrawal to the
687 commission, the commissioner of the division of insurance, the attorney general, and any entity
688 in the state with which the manufacturer or wholesaler has a contract for the sale or distribution
689 of the drug. The commission shall assess a penalty not to exceed one year's worth of the
690 manufacturer's revenue attributable to use of the drug in the commonwealth, as determined by
691 the commission, if the commission determines that a manufacturer or wholesaler failed to
692 provide said notice. This subsection shall not apply in instances where the drug is being
693 withdrawn due to a recall or revocation of the drug's approval by the Food and Drug
694 Administration, or similar reasons as determined by the commission.

695 (h) Any savings that a carrier, a participating self-insured plan, or the group insurance
696 commission generates due to the implementation of an upper payment limit shall be used to
697 reduce costs to consumers, prioritizing the reduction of premiums or out-of-pocket costs for
698 prescription drugs. Annually, each carrier, participating self-insured plan, the group insurance
699 commission, and the division of medical assistance shall submit to the commission a report
700 describing the savings achieved as a result of implementing upper payment limits and how those
701 savings were used to reduce costs to consumers.

702 (i) The attorney general shall be permitted to enforce this subsection.

703 (j) The commission shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement this section.

704 Section 26. (a) A private equity company shall not engage in a transaction involving a
705 provider or provider organization that the private equity company directly or indirectly owns or
706 controls if the transaction has a reasonable likelihood of causing or materially contributing to the

707 provider or provider organization's financial distress due to placing an excessively high level of
708 debt on the provider or provider organization or for similar reasons.

709 A private equity company that directly or indirectly owns or controls a provider or
710 provider organization shall not cause or otherwise take actions that would reasonably likely lead
711 the provider or provider organization to: (i) issue debt-funded dividends; (ii) pay to the private
712 equity company management fees or similar fees or costs; or (iii) issue dividends at a time or in
713 an amount, or perform any other action or exceed any other metric, that has a reasonable
714 likelihood of causing the provider or provider organization to become financially distressed.

715 (b) A provider or provider organization that a private equity company directly or
716 indirectly owns or controls shall not engage in a transaction if the transaction has a reasonable
717 likelihood of causing or materially contributing to the provider or provider organization's
718 financial distress due to placing an excessively high level of debt on the provider or provider
719 organization or for similar reasons.

720 A provider or provider organization that a private equity company directly or indirectly
721 owns or controls shall not: (i) issue debt-funded dividends; (ii) pay to the private equity company
722 management fees or similar fees or costs; or (iii) issue dividends at a time or in an amount, or
723 perform any other action or exceed any other metric, that has a reasonable likelihood of causing
724 the provider or provider organization to become financially distressed.

725 (c) A health care real estate investment trust and a provider or provider organization shall
726 not engage in a transaction if the transaction has a reasonable likelihood of causing or materially
727 contributing to the provider or provider organization's financial distress.

728 (d) A violation of this section shall constitute an unfair method of competition or unfair
729 trade practice under chapter 93A, and the attorney general may take action under said chapter
730 93A or any other law to protect consumers in the health care market. Upon becoming aware of a
731 violation the commission shall notify the attorney general and any labor organization
732 representing workers who work or worked for the provider or provider organization or in the
733 provider or provider organization's facilities. Only the attorney general or said labor
734 organizations may bring an action under said chapter 93A for a violation of this section. If an
735 action is brought against a provider or provider organization under said chapter 93A, only
736 injunctive relief and reasonable attorney's fees and costs may be obtained.

737 (e) To effectuate the purposes of this section, the commission may consider all publicly
738 available data and documents, including information submitted to the commission and the center
739 under any authority. The commission may also solicit additional non-public information from
740 providers or provider organizations to the extent necessary to achieve the purposes of this
741 section. The commission shall keep confidential all nonpublic information and documents
742 obtained under this section, and such information shall not be public records and shall be exempt
743 from disclosure under clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 or section 10 of chapter 66.

744 (f) The commission shall promulgate regulations to effectuate the purposes of this
745 section. Prior to making any notifications pursuant to subsection (d), the commission shall
746 promulgate regulations defining financial distress and the metrics used to measure financial
747 distress.

748 SECTION 25. Section 5A of chapter 12 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
749 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 39, the words “an individual” and
750 inserting in place thereof the following words:- a person.

751 SECTION 26. Said section 5A of said chapter 12, as amended by section 27 of chapter
752 343 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended striking out the words “or (3) interest held by
753 a pool of funds by investors, including a pool of funds managed or controlled by private limited
754 partnerships, if those investors or management of that pool or private limited partnership employ
755 investment strategies of any kind to earn a return on that pool of funds” and inserting in place
756 thereof the following words:- (3) interest held by a pool of funds by investors, including a pool
757 of funds managed or controlled by private limited partnerships, if those investors or the
758 management of that pool or private limited partnership employ investment strategies of any kind
759 to earn a return on that pool of funds; or (4) interest held by a health care real estate investment
760 trust.

761 SECTION 27. Said section 5A of said chapter 12, as appearing in the 2022 Official
762 Edition, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 56, the words “an individual” and
763 inserting in place thereof the following words:- a person.

764 SECTION 28. Section 5C of said chapter 12, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
765 striking out, in line 7, the words “an individual” and inserting in place thereof the following
766 words:- a person.

767 SECTION 29. Section 5G of said chapter 12, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
768 striking out, in line 7, the words “an individual” and inserting in place thereof the following
769 words:- a person.

770 SECTION 30. Section 11N of said chapter 12, as amended by section 30 of chapter 343
771 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the words “or management services
772 organization” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- , management services
773 organization, pharmaceutical manufacturing company and pharmacy benefit manager.

774 SECTION 31. Said section 11N of said chapter 12, as so appearing, is hereby further
775 amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

776 (b) The attorney general may investigate any provider organization referred to the
777 attorney general by the health policy commission under chapter 6D to determine whether the
778 provider organization engaged in unfair methods of competition, unfair or deceptive trade
779 practices or anti-competitive behavior in violation of chapter 93A or any other law, and, if
780 appropriate, take action under said chapter 93A or any other law to protect consumers in the
781 health care market, including, but not limited to, an action for injunctive relief.

782 SECTION 32. Section 1 of chapter 12C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
783 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Ambulatory surgical
784 center services” the following 4 definitions:-

785 “Average manufacturer price”, the average price paid to a manufacturer for a drug in the
786 commonwealth by: (i) a wholesaler for drugs distributed to pharmacies; and (ii) a pharmacy that
787 purchases drugs directly from the manufacturer.

788 “Benchmark cycle”, a period of 2 consecutive calendar years during which the projected
789 annualized growth rate in total health care expenditures in the commonwealth is calculated
790 pursuant to section 9 of chapter 6D and monitored pursuant to section 10 of said chapter 6D.

791 “Biosimilar”, a drug that is produced or distributed pursuant to a biologics license
792 application approved under 42 U.S.C. 262(k)(3).

793 “Brand name drug”, a drug that is: (i) produced or distributed pursuant to an original new
794 drug application approved under 21 U.S.C. 355(c) except for: (a) any drug approved through an
795 application submitted under section 505(b)(2) of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that
796 is pharmaceutically equivalent, as that term is defined by the United States Food and Drug
797 Administration, to a drug approved under 21 U.S.C. 355(c); (b) an abbreviated new drug
798 application that was approved by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services
799 under section 505(c) of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 355(c), before the
800 date of the enactment of the federal Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of
801 1984, Public Law 98-417, 98 Stat. 1585; or (c) an authorized generic drug as defined by 42
802 C.F.R. 447.502; (ii) produced or distributed pursuant to a biologics license application approved
803 under 42 U.S.C. 262(a)(2)(C); or (iii) identified by the carrier as a brand name drug based on
804 available data resources such as Medi-Span.

805 SECTION 33. Said section 1 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
806 amended by inserting after the definition of “General health supplies, care or rehabilitative
807 services and accommodations” the following definition:-

808 “Generic drug”, a retail drug that is: (i) marketed or distributed pursuant to an
809 abbreviated new drug application approved under 21 U.S.C. 355(j); (ii) an authorized generic
810 drug as defined by 42 C.F.R. 447.502; (iii) a drug that entered the market before January 1, 1962
811 that was not originally marketed under a new drug application; or (iv) identified by the carrier as
812 a generic drug based on available data resources such as Medi-Span.

813 SECTION 34. Said section 1 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
814 amended by striking out the definition of “Health care cost growth benchmark” and inserting in
815 place thereof the following 2 definitions:-

816 “Health care cost growth benchmark”, the projected annualized growth rate in total health
817 care expenditures in the commonwealth during a benchmark cycle as established in section 9 of
818 chapter 6D.

819 “Health care entity”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 6D.

820 SECTION 35. Said section 1 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
821 amended by striking out the definition of “Provider organization” and inserting in place thereof
822 the following definition:-

823 “Provider organization”, any corporation, partnership, business trust, association or
824 organized group of persons, which is in the business of health care delivery or management,
825 whether incorporated or not, that represents at least 1 health care providers in contracting with
826 carriers, third party administrators or public payers for the payments of health care services;
827 provided, that "provider organization" shall include, but not be limited to, physician
828 organizations, physician-hospital organizations, independent practice associations, provider
829 networks, accountable care organizations, management services organizations, providers that are
830 owned or controlled, fully or partially, by for-profit entities, including, but not limited to,
831 significant equity investors, and any other organization that contracts with carriers, third party
832 administrators or public payers for payment for health care services.

833 SECTION 36. Said section 1 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
834 amended by inserting after the definition of “Total health care expenditures” the following
835 definition:-

836 “Total medical expenses”, the total cost of care for the patient population associated with
837 a provider organization based on allowed claims for all categories of medical expenses and all
838 non-claims related payments to providers.

839 SECTION 37. Section 3 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
840 striking out, in line 11, the word “benchmark” and inserting in place thereof the following
841 words:- and affordability benchmarks.

842 SECTION 38. Said section 3 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
843 amended by striking out, in line 12, the words “section 9” and inserting in place thereof the
844 following words:- sections 9 and 9A.

845 SECTION 39. Section 7 of chapter 12C, as amended by section 21 of chapter 342 of the
846 acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the
847 following subsection:-

848 (d) To the maximum extent permissible under federal law, and provided that such
849 assessment will not result in any reduction of federal financial participation in Medicaid, the
850 assessed amount for pharmaceutical manufacturing companies shall be not less than 5 per cent of
851 nor more than 10 per cent the amount appropriated by the general court for the expenses of the
852 center minus amounts collected from: (i) filing fees; (ii) fees and charges generated by the
853 center; and (iii) federal matching revenues received for these expenses or received retroactively
854 for expenses of predecessor agencies. Each pharmaceutical manufacturing company shall pay

855 such assessed amount multiplied by the ratio of the pharmaceutical manufacturing company's
856 gross sales of outpatient prescription drugs dispensed in the commonwealth to the total gross
857 sales of outpatient prescription drugs dispensed in the commonwealth.

858 SECTION 40. Section 9 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
859 striking out subsections (d) and (e) and inserting in place thereof the following subsections:-

860 (d) Notwithstanding the annual reporting requirements under this section, the center may
861 require in writing, at any time, such additional information as it deems reasonable and necessary
862 to determine the organizational structure, business practices, clinical services, market share or
863 financial condition of a registered provider organization, including information related to its total
864 adjusted debt and total adjusted earnings. The center shall also collect and analyze such data as it
865 considers necessary to monitor compliance with section 26 of chapter 6D, and shall refer to the
866 commission any provider, provider organization or private equity company that the center
867 reasonably believes has violated section 26 of chapter 6D. The center may: (i) modify uniform
868 reporting requirements; (ii) require registered provider organizations with private equity
869 investment to report required information quarterly or upon request from the center; or (iii)
870 require the disclosure of relevant information from any significant equity investor associated
871 with a registered provider organization.

872 The information shall be analyzed on an industry-wide and provider-specific basis and
873 shall include, but not be limited to: (i) gross and net patient service revenues; (ii) sources of
874 revenue; (iii) total payroll as a per cent of operating expenses and the salary and benefits of the
875 top 10 highest compensated employees, identified by position description and specialty; and (iv)
876 other relevant measures of financial health or distress.

877 The center shall publish annual reports and establish a continuing program of
878 investigation and study of financial trends among registered provider organizations, including an
879 analysis of systemic instabilities or inefficiencies that contribute to financial distress. The reports
880 shall include an identification and examination of registered provider organizations that the
881 center considers to be in financial distress, including any at risk of closing or discontinuing
882 essential health services, as defined by the department of public health under section 51G of
883 chapter 111, as a result of financial distress.

884 (e) The center shall develop and maintain an inventory of health care resources on its
885 website in a form usable by the public; provided, that the extracts must include information on
886 the geographic distribution of clinicians, facilities, equipment or any other health care resources.
887 Such inventory shall be derived from all available data, including, but not limited to, data
888 collected under this section and data collected by other state agencies. Agencies that license,
889 register, regulate or otherwise collect cost, quality or other data concerning health care resources
890 shall provide the center and the commission such data and information necessary to develop and
891 maintain the inventory required by this this section.

892 (f) The center may enter into interagency agreements with the commission and other state
893 agencies to effectuate the goals of this section.

894 SECTION 41. Section 10 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
895 inserting after the word “of”, in line 21, the following words:- communities and purchaser.

896 SECTION 42. Subsection (b) of said section 10 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is
897 hereby further amended by striking out clause (8) and inserting in place thereof the following
898 clause:-

899 (8) relative prices paid to every hospital or physician group in the payer’s network, by
900 type of provider, with hospital inpatient and outpatient prices listed separately and product type,
901 including health maintenance organization and preferred provider organization products.

902 SECTION 43. Said subsection (b) of said section 10 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing,
903 is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 56 to 61, inclusive, the words “and (11) a
904 comparison of relative prices for the payer’s participating health care providers by provider type
905 which shows the average relative price, the extent of variation in price, stated as a percentage,
906 and identifies providers who are paid more than 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent above
907 and more than 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent below the average relative price” and
908 inserting in place thereof the following words:- (11) information about prescription drug
909 utilization and spending for all covered drugs, including for generic drugs, brand-name drugs and
910 specialty drugs provided in an inpatient or outpatient setting or sold in a retail setting, including,
911 but not limited to, information sufficient to show the: (i) highest utilization drugs; (ii) drugs with
912 the greatest increases in utilization; (iii) drugs that are most impactful on plan spending, net of
913 rebates; (iv) drugs with the highest year-over-year price increases, net of rebates; (v) drugs with
914 the highest out-of-pocket costs including, but not limited to, coinsurances, copayments and
915 deductibles expended by patients; and (vi) drugs with the highest cost per prescription both gross
916 and net of rebates; (12) information on clinical quality, care coordination and patient referral
917 practices; and (13) a comparison of relative prices for the payer’s participating health care
918 providers by provider type, which shows the average relative price and the extent of variation in
919 price and identifies providers who are paid more than 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent
920 above and more than 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent below the average relative price.

921 SECTION 44. Subsection (c) of said section 10 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is
922 hereby amended by striking out clause (8) and inserting in place thereof the following clause:-

923 (8) relative prices paid to every hospital or physician group in the payer’s network, by
924 type of provider, with hospital inpatient and outpatient prices listed separately and product type,
925 including health maintenance organization and preferred provider organization products.

926 SECTION 45. Said subsection (c) of said section 10 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing,
927 is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 99 to 104, inclusive, the words “and (11) a
928 comparison of relative prices for the payer’s participating health care providers by provider type
929 which shows the average relative price, the extent of variation in price, stated as a percentage and
930 identifies providers who are paid more than 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent above and
931 more than 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent below the average relative price” and inserting
932 in place thereof the following words:- (11) information about prescription drug utilization and
933 spending for all covered drugs, including for generic drugs, brand-name drugs and specialty
934 drugs provided in an inpatient or outpatient setting or sold in a retail setting, including, but not
935 limited to, information sufficient to show the: (i) highest utilization drugs, (ii) drugs with the
936 greatest increases in utilization, (iii) drugs that are most impactful on plan spending, net of
937 rebates, (v) drugs with the highest year-over-year price increases, net of rebates, and (v) drugs
938 with the highest cost per prescription, both gross and net of rebates; (12) information on clinical
939 quality, care coordination and patient referral practices; and (13) a comparison of relative prices
940 for the payer’s participating health care providers by provider type, which shows the average
941 relative price and the extent of variation in price and identifies providers who are paid more than
942 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent above and more than 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per
943 cent below the average relative price.

944 SECTION 46. Section 10A of said chapter 12C, as inserted by section 22 of chapter 342
945 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (c) and adding the following
946 subsections:-

947 (c) The center shall promulgate regulations necessary to ensure the uniform reporting of
948 information from pharmaceutical manufacturing companies to enable the center to analyze: (i)
949 year-over-year changes in wholesale acquisition cost and average manufacturer price for
950 prescription drug products; (ii) year-over-year trends in net expenditures; (iii) net expenditures
951 on subsets of biosimilar, brand name and generic drugs identified by the center; (iv) trends in
952 estimated aggregate drug rebates, discounts or other remuneration paid or provided by a
953 pharmaceutical manufacturing company to a pharmacy benefit manager, wholesaler, distributor,
954 health carrier client, health plan sponsor or pharmacy in connection with utilization of the
955 pharmaceutical drug products offered by the pharmaceutical manufacturing company; (v)
956 discounts provided by a pharmaceutical manufacturing company to a consumer in connection
957 with utilization of the pharmaceutical drug products offered by the pharmaceutical
958 manufacturing company, including any discount, rebate, product voucher, coupon or other
959 reduction in a consumer's out-of-pocket expenses including co-payments and deductibles under
960 section 3 of chapter 175H; (vi) research and development costs as a percentage of revenue; (vii)
961 annual marketing and advertising costs, identifying costs for direct-to-consumer advertising;
962 (viii) annual profits over the most recent 5-year period; (ix) disparities between prices charged to
963 purchasers in the commonwealth and purchasers outside of the United States; and (x) any other
964 information deemed necessary by the center.

965 The center shall require the submission of available data and other information from
966 pharmaceutical manufacturing companies including, but not limited to: (i) wholesale acquisition

967 costs and average manufacturer prices for prescription drug products as identified by the center;
968 (ii) true net typical prices charged to pharmacy benefits managers by payor type for prescription
969 drug products identified by the center, net of any rebate or other payments from the manufacturer
970 to the pharmacy benefits manager and from the pharmacy benefits manager to the manufacturer;
971 (iii) aggregate, company-level research and development costs to the extent attributable to a
972 specific product and other relevant capital expenditures for the most recent year for which final
973 audited data is available for prescription drug products as identified by the center; (iv) annual
974 marketing and advertising expenditure; (v) the total amount of federal and state tax credits,
975 incentives, grants and other subsidies provided to the manufacturer over the previous 10 calendar
976 years that have been used to assist in the research and development of eligible drugs; and (vi) a
977 description, absent proprietary information and written in plain language, of factors that
978 contributed to reported changes in wholesale acquisition costs, net prices and average
979 manufacturer prices for prescription drug products as identified by the center.

980 (d) Except as specifically provided otherwise by the center or under this chapter, data
981 collected by the center pursuant to this section shall not be a public record under clause Twenty-
982 sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 and section 10 of chapter 66. No such data shall be disclosed in a
983 manner that is likely to compromise the financial, competitive or proprietary nature of such data
984 and other information, or that may identify specific prices charged for drugs, the value of any
985 rebate amounts, individual drugs, or any pharmaceutical manufacturing company.

986 SECTION 47. Section 12 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
987 adding the following subsection:-

988 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a provider, private health
989 care payer, public health care payer, agency, department, division, commission, board, authority
990 or other public or quasi-public entity in the commonwealth that collects patient information,
991 including personal data as defined in section 1 of chapter 66A, shall, upon a request from the
992 center, provide such data to the center for any purpose consistent with this chapter; provided,
993 however, that the disclosure of such information shall be in compliance with federal law.

994 SECTION 48. Section 16 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
995 inserting after the word “publish”, in line 1, the following words:- , for the most recently
996 concluded benchmark cycle.

997 SECTION 49. Said section 16 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
998 amended by inserting after the word “submitted”, in line 2, the following words:- for that
999 benchmark cycle.

1000 SECTION 50. Said section 16 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
1001 amended by striking out, in line 7, the word “benchmark” and inserting in place thereof the
1002 following words:- and affordability benchmarks.

1003 SECTION 51. Said section 16 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
1004 amended by striking out, in line 8, the words “section 9” and inserting in place thereof the
1005 following words:- sections 9 and 9A.

1006 SECTION 52. Said section 16 of said chapter 12C, as appearing in the 2022 Official
1007 Edition, is hereby further amended by striking out, in the second sentence, the words “in the
1008 aggregate”.

1009 SECTION 53. Said section 16 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
1010 amended by striking out, in line 43, the words “and (12)” and inserting in place thereof the
1011 following words:- (12) a standard set of measures of health care affordability in the
1012 commonwealth, including family health care expenditures and an annual index of how such
1013 health care costs compare to the health care affordability benchmark set under section 9A of
1014 chapter 6D; and (13).

1015 SECTION 54. Subsection (a) of said section 16 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is
1016 hereby further amended by inserting after the second paragraph the following paragraph:-

1017 As part of its annual report, the center shall report on prescription drug utilization and
1018 spending for pharmaceutical drugs provided in an outpatient setting or sold in a retail setting for
1019 private and public health care payers, including, but not limited to, information sufficient to
1020 show the: (i) highest utilization drugs; (ii) drugs with the greatest increases in utilization; (iii)
1021 drugs that are most impactful on plan spending, net of rebates; and (iv) drugs with the highest
1022 year-over-year price increases, net of rebates. The report shall not contain any data that is likely
1023 to compromise the financial, competitive or proprietary nature of the information contained in
1024 the report. The report shall be published on the website of the center.

1025 SECTION 55. Said section 16 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further
1026 amended by adding the following subsection:-

1027 (d) The center shall evaluate and report on individual private and public health care payer
1028 data metrics submitted to the center pursuant to clauses (1) to (5), inclusive, of subsection (b) of
1029 section 10 and data submitted to the division of insurance pursuant to section 21 of chapter
1030 176O. The center shall include information on payer data in its annual report required under this

1031 section; provided, however, that such information shall be reported on an industry-wide, payer-
1032 specific basis and shall include, but not be limited to: (i) operating margins; (ii) total margins;
1033 (iii) reserves in dollars and as a percentage of risk-based capital; (iv) enrollment and member
1034 months; (v) total premiums and premiums on a per member per month basis; (vi) total medical
1035 expenses and medical expenses on a per member per month basis; and (vii) total administrative
1036 expenses and administrative expenses on a per member per month basis; and provided further,
1037 that the center shall report this information by type of business, where possible.

1038 SECTION 56. Section 17 of said chapter 12C, as amended by section 49 of chapter 343
1039 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “provider organization” the
1040 following words:- , pharmaceutical manufacturing company, pharmacy benefit manager.

1041 SECTION 57. Said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking
1042 out section 18 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

1043 Section 18. (a) The center shall perform ongoing analysis of data it receives under this
1044 chapter to identify any health care entity whose: (1) contribution to health care spending levels
1045 and growth, including but not limited to, spending levels and growth as measured by health-
1046 status adjusted total medical expense or total medical expense, is considered excessive and who
1047 threaten the ability of the state to meet the health care cost growth benchmark established by the
1048 commission under section 9 of chapter 6D; provided further, that the center shall identify cohorts
1049 for similar health care entities and establish differential standards for excessive growth rates
1050 within the health care cost growth benchmark established by the commission under section 9 of
1051 chapter 6D, based on factors which may include, but are not limited to, a health care entity’s

1052 spending, pricing levels and payer mix; or (2) data is not submitted to the center in a proper,
1053 timely or complete manner.

1054 (b) The center shall confidentially provide a list of the health care entities to the
1055 commission such that the commission may pursue further action under section 10 of chapter 6D.
1056 Confidential referrals under this section shall not preclude the center from using its authority to
1057 assess penalties for noncompliance under section 11.

1058 SECTION 58. Section 13 of chapter 17 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
1059 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

1060 (f) As used in this subsection, the following words shall have the following meanings
1061 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

1062 “Public health essential drug”, a prescription drug, biologic or biosimilar approved by the
1063 United States Food and Drug Administration that: (i) appears on the Model List of Essential
1064 Medicines most recently adopted by the World Health Organization; (ii) is selected pursuant to
1065 section 17Z of chapter 32A, section 10Z of chapter 118E, section 47CCC of chapter 175, section
1066 8DDD of chapter 176A, section 4DDD of chapter 176B and section 4VV of chapter 176G; or
1067 (iii) is deemed an essential medicine by the commission due to its efficacy in treating a life-
1068 threatening health condition or a chronic health condition that substantially impairs an
1069 individual’s ability to engage in activities of daily living or because limited access to a certain
1070 population would pose a public health challenge. “Public health essential drug” shall also include
1071 all continuous glucose monitoring system components, all components of the continuous glucose
1072 monitoring system of which the component is a part and delivery devices selected pursuant to

1073 section 17Z of chapter 32A, section 10Z of chapter 118E, section 47CCC of chapter 175, section
1074 8DDD of chapter 176A, section 4DDD of chapter 176B and section 4VV of chapter 176G.

1075 The commission shall identify and publish a list of public health essential drugs. The list
1076 shall be updated not less than annually and be made publicly available on the department's
1077 website; provided, however, that the commission may provide an interim listing of a public
1078 health essential drug prior to an annual update. The commission shall notify and forward a copy
1079 of the list to the health policy commission established under chapter 6D.

1080 SECTION 59. Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amending by
1081 inserting after section 2DDDDDD the following section:-

1082 2EEEEEE. (a) There shall be a Prescription Drug Cost Assistance Trust Fund. The
1083 secretary of health and human services shall administer the fund and shall make expenditures
1084 from the fund, without further appropriation, to provide financial assistance to residents of the
1085 commonwealth for the cost of prescription drugs through the prescription drug costs assistance
1086 program established under section 246 of chapter 111. For the purpose of this section,
1087 "prescription drug" shall include the prescription drug and any drug delivery device needed to
1088 administer the drug that is not included as part of the underlying drug prescription.

1089 The fund shall consist of: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by
1090 the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; and (ii) funds from public
1091 or private sources, including, but not limited to, gifts, grants, donations, rebates and settlements
1092 received by the commonwealth that are specifically designated to be credited to the fund. Money
1093 remaining in the fund at the close of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall
1094 be available for expenditure in the following fiscal year.

1095 (b) Annually, not later than March 1, the secretary shall report on the fund’s activities
1096 detailing expenditures from the previous calendar year. The report shall include: (i) the number
1097 of individuals who received financial assistance from the fund; (ii) the breakdown of fund
1098 recipients by race, gender, age range, geographic region and income level; (iii) a list of all
1099 prescription drugs that were covered by money from the fund; and (iv) the total cost savings
1100 received by all fund recipients and the cost savings broken down by race, gender, age range and
1101 income level. The report shall be submitted to the clerks of the senate and house of
1102 representatives, senate and house committees on ways and means and the joint committee on
1103 health care financing; provided, however, that annually, not later than March 1, the report shall
1104 be published on the website of the executive office of health and human services.

1105 (c) The secretary shall promulgate regulations or issue other guidance for the expenditure
1106 of the funds under this section.

1107 SECTION 60. Subsection (b) of section 7H½ of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as
1108 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and
1109 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- Annually, not later than January 15, the
1110 secretary of administration and finance shall meet with the house and senate committees on ways
1111 and means and shall jointly develop a growth rate of potential gross state product for the calendar
1112 year that will begin 2 years following the calendar year in which the January 15 date occurs,
1113 which shall be agreed to by the secretary and the committees.

1114 SECTION 61. Subsection (a) of section 17Z of chapter 32A of the General Laws, as
1115 inserted by section 26 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after
1116 the definition of “Brand name drug” the following 3 definitions:-

1117 “Continuous glucose monitoring system”, a system to continuously sense, transmit and
1118 display blood glucose levels.

1119 “Delivery device”, a device that: (i) is used to deliver a brand name drug or a generic
1120 drug; and (ii) an individual can obtain with a prescription.

1121 “Diabetes treatment supplies”, supplies for the treatment of diabetes including, but not
1122 limited to, syringes, needles, blood glucose monitors, blood glucose monitoring strips for home
1123 use, strips to calibrate continuous blood glucose monitors, urine glucose strips, ketone strips,
1124 lancets, adhesive skin patches, insulin pump supplies, voice-synthesizers for blood glucose
1125 monitors for use by the legally blind and visual magnifying aids for use by the legally blind;
1126 provided, however, that “diabetes treatment supplies” shall not include a brand name drug, a
1127 generic drug, a continuous glucose monitoring system component, or a delivery device.

1128 SECTION 62. Said subsection (a) of said section 17Z of said chapter 32A, as inserted by
1129 section 26 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting after the
1130 definition of “Generic drug” the following definition:-

1131 “Separate delivery device”, a device that is used to deliver a brand name drug or a
1132 generic drug and that can be obtained with a prescription separate from, or in addition to, the
1133 brand name drug or generic drug that the device delivers.

1134 SECTION 63. Subsection (b) of said section 17Z of said chapter 32A, as inserted by
1135 section 26 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the figure “2”
1136 and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 3.

1137 SECTION 64. Subsection (d) of said section 17Z of said chapter 32A, as inserted by
1138 section 26 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following 3
1139 paragraphs:-

1140 If use of a brand name drug or generic drug that the commission selects requires a
1141 separate delivery device, the commission shall select a delivery device for that drug in
1142 accordance with the criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and
1143 generic drugs, to the extent possible. The commission shall provide coverage for the delivery
1144 device; provided, however, that the delivery device shall not be subject to any cost-sharing,
1145 including co-payments and co-insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible.

1146 The commission shall select a continuous glucose monitoring system in accordance with
1147 the criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs. The
1148 commission shall provide coverage for the continuous glucose monitoring system and all
1149 components thereof; provided, however, that the continuous glucose monitoring system and all
1150 components thereof shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-
1151 insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible.

1152 The commission shall provide coverage for necessary diabetes treatment supplies. Such
1153 supplies shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1154 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1155 SECTION 65. Subsection (e) of said section 17Z of said chapter 32A, as inserted by
1156 section 26 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following
1157 sentence:- This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and, when
1158 applicable, delivery devices, in the same manner in which the subsection applies to drugs.

1159 SECTION 66. Subsection (f) of said section 17Z of said chapter 32A, as inserted by
1160 section 26 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1161 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1162 SECTION 67. Subsection (g) of said section 17Z of said chapter 32A, as inserted by
1163 section 26 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1164 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1165 SECTION 68. Said section 17Z of said chapter 32A, as inserted by section 26 of chapter
1166 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

1167 (h) A member and their prescribing health care provider shall have access to a clear,
1168 readily accessible and convenient process to request to use a different brand name drug or
1169 generic drug of the same pharmacological class in place of a brand name drug or generic drug
1170 selected under subsection (b). Such request for an exception shall be granted if: (i) the brand
1171 name drugs and generic drugs selected under subsection (b) are contraindicated or will likely
1172 cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental harm to the member; (ii) the brand name drugs
1173 and generic drugs selected under subsection (b) are expected to be ineffective based on the
1174 known clinical characteristics of the member and the known characteristics of the prescription
1175 drug regimen; (iii) the member or prescribing health care provider: (A) has provided
1176 documentation to the commission establishing that the member has previously tried the brand
1177 name drugs and generic drugs selected under subsection (b); and (B) such prescription drug was
1178 discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect or an adverse event; or
1179 (iv) the member or prescribing health care provider has provided documentation to the
1180 commission establishing that the member: (A) is stable on a prescription drug prescribed by the

1181 health care provider; and (B) switching drugs will likely cause an adverse reaction in or physical
1182 or mental harm to the member. This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring
1183 systems and, when applicable, delivery devices.

1184 SECTION 69. Subsection (a) of section 21C of chapter 94C of the General Laws, as
1185 inserted by section 27 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the
1186 definition of “Cost-sharing” and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

1187 “Cost-sharing”, an amount owed by an individual under the terms of the individual’s
1188 health benefit plan or, to the extent permissible under federal law, self-insurance plan.

1189 SECTION 70. Subsection (c) of said section 21C of said chapter 94C, as inserted by
1190 section 27 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1191 “carrier” the following words:- or pharmacy benefit manager.

1192 SECTION 71. Section 25A of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
1193 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first 5 paragraphs.

1194 SECTION 72. Said chapter 111, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting
1195 after section 244 the following 2 sections:-

1196 Section 245. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
1197 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

1198 “Private equity company”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 6D.

1199 “Provider”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 6D.

1200 “Provider Organization”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 6D.

1201 (b) A private equity company engaging in a transaction that will lead to the private equity
1202 company obtaining direct or indirect ownership or control of a provider or provider organization
1203 shall deposit, upon submission of a notice of material change pursuant to section 13 of chapter
1204 6D, a bond with the department. The private equity company shall not use the provider or
1205 provider organization or the provider or provider organization's assets or property as security for
1206 the bond, pay for the bond by placing debt on the provider or provider organization, permit the
1207 provider or provider organization to pay the bond on the private equity company's behalf, or
1208 allow the provider or provider organization to otherwise be liable or indemnify the private equity
1209 company firm for the bond.

1210 (c) Until such bond has been deposited, the department shall not issue a license to such
1211 provider or provider organization under this chapter, the department of mental health shall not
1212 issue a license to such provider or provider organization under chapter 19, and any determination
1213 of need application submitted under sections 25B to 25G, inclusive, of said chapter 111 or
1214 material change notice submitted under section 13 of chapter 6D shall be deemed incomplete. If
1215 the bond has not been deposited, but the department would otherwise be permitted to collect the
1216 bond, the department shall be permitted to collect from the private equity company the amount
1217 the department would have been able to collect had the bond been deposited.

1218 (d) The department, in consultation with the health policy commission, shall determine
1219 the amount of the bond, which shall equal 1 year of the provider or provider organization's
1220 average or estimated operating expenses, plus the estimated cost of hiring an independent
1221 supervisor and reasonable staff to supervise and facilitate collecting and spending the bond. The
1222 private equity company shall maintain the bond for as long as the private equity company

1223 directly or indirectly owns or controls the provider or provider organization, and for 7 years
1224 thereafter.

1225 (e) The department may collect the bond if the provider or provider organization declares
1226 bankruptcy, is at imminent risk of closure, or closes a majority of the essential services the
1227 provider or provider organization provides, as determined by the department. The department, in
1228 consultation with the health policy commission and the center for health information and
1229 analysis, shall use the bond proceeds to support the continued provision of health services to
1230 patients served by the provider or provider organization. Prior to spending the bond, the
1231 department shall seek input from the public, including, but not limited to, providers, provider
1232 organizations and patients in the affected region, regarding how to spend the bond. The
1233 department may, in consultation with the health policy commission and center for health
1234 information and analysis, select an independent supervisor and reasonable staff to supervise and
1235 facilitate collecting and spending the bond. This section does not provide the department with the
1236 authority to petition for the appointment of a receiver for the provider or provider organization.

1237 (f) The department shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement this section.

1238 Section 246. (a) The department shall establish and administer a prescription drug cost
1239 assistance program, which shall be funded by the Prescription Drug Cost Assistance Trust Fund
1240 established in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29. The program shall provide financial assistance
1241 for prescription drugs used to treat: (i) chronic respiratory conditions, including, but not limited
1242 to, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma; (ii) chronic heart conditions, including,
1243 but not limited to, those heart conditions that disproportionately impact a particular demographic
1244 group, including people of color; (iii) diabetes; and (iv) any other chronic condition identified by

1245 the department that disproportionately impacts a particular demographic group, including people
1246 of color; provided, however, that “prescription drug” shall include the prescription drug and any
1247 drug delivery device needed to administer the drug that is not included as part of the underlying
1248 drug prescription. Financial assistance shall cover the cost of any copayment, coinsurance and
1249 deductible for the prescription drug for an individual who is eligible for the program.

1250 (b) An individual shall be eligible for the program if the individual: (i) is a resident of the
1251 commonwealth; (ii) has a current prescription from a health care provider for a drug that is used
1252 to treat a chronic condition listed in subsection (a); (iii) has a family income of not more than
1253 500 per cent of the federal poverty level; and (iv) is not enrolled in MassHealth.

1254 (c) The department shall create an application process, which shall be available
1255 electronically and in hard copy form, to determine whether an individual meets the program
1256 eligibility requirements under subsection (b). The department shall determine an applicant’s
1257 eligibility and notify the applicant of the department’s determination within 10 business days of
1258 receiving the application. If necessary for its determination, the department may request
1259 additional information from the applicant; provided, however, that the department shall notify
1260 the applicant within 5 business days of receipt of the original application as to what specific
1261 additional information is being requested. If additional information is requested, the department
1262 shall, within 3 business days of receipt of the additional information, determine the applicant’s
1263 eligibility and notify said applicant of the department’s determination.

1264 If the department determines that an applicant is not eligible for the program, the
1265 department shall notify the applicant and shall include in said notification the specific reasons

1266 why the applicant is not eligible. The applicant may appeal this determination to the department
1267 within 30 days of receiving such notification.

1268 If the department determines that an applicant is eligible for the program, the department
1269 shall provide the applicant with a prescription drug cost assistance program identification card,
1270 which shall indicate the applicant's eligibility; provided, however, that the program identification
1271 card shall include, but not be limited to, the applicant's full name and the full name of the
1272 prescription drug that the applicant is eligible to receive under the program without having to pay
1273 a co-payment, co-insurance or deductible. An applicant's program identification card shall be
1274 valid for 12 months and shall be renewable upon a redetermination of program eligibility.

1275 (d) An individual with a valid program identification card may present such card at any
1276 pharmacy in the commonwealth and, upon presentation of such card, the pharmacy shall fill the
1277 individual's prescription and provide the prescribed drug to the individual without requiring the
1278 individual to pay a co-payment, co-insurance or deductible; provided, however, that the
1279 pharmacy shall be reimbursed by the Prescription Drug Cost Assistance Trust Fund established
1280 in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29 in a manner determined by the department, in an amount
1281 equal to what the pharmacy would have received had the individual been required to pay a co-
1282 payment, co-insurance or deductible.

1283 (e) The department, in collaboration with the division of insurance, board of registration
1284 in pharmacy and stakeholders representing consumers, pharmacists, providers, hospitals and
1285 carriers, shall develop and implement a plan to educate consumers, pharmacists, providers,
1286 hospitals and carriers regarding eligibility for and enrollment in the program under this section.
1287 The plan shall include, but not be limited to, appropriate staff training, notices provided to

1288 consumers at the pharmacy and a designated website with information for consumers,
1289 pharmacists and other health care professionals.

1290 (f) The department shall compile a report detailing information about the program from
1291 the previous calendar year. The report shall include: (i) the number of applications received,
1292 approved, denied and appealed; (ii) the total number of applicants approved, and the number of
1293 applicants approved broken down by race, gender, age range and income level; (iii) a list of all
1294 prescription drugs that qualify for the program under subsection (b) and a list of prescription
1295 drugs for which applicants actually received financial assistance; and (iv) the total cost savings
1296 received by all approved applicants and the cost savings broken down by race, gender, age range
1297 and income level. The report shall be submitted annually, not later than March 1, to the clerks of
1298 the senate and house of representatives, the house and senate committees on ways and means and
1299 the joint committee on health care financing; provided, however, that annually, not later than
1300 March 1, the report shall be published on the website of the department.

1301 (g) The department shall promulgate regulations or issue guidance for the implementation
1302 and enforcement of this section.

1303 SECTION 73. Section 1 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
1304 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the third paragraph the following
1305 paragraph:-

1306 The commissioner of occupational licensure and the commissioner of public health shall
1307 by regulation define the words “good moral character”, establish a standardized assessment of
1308 “good moral character” for applicants for certification or licensure. Each of the boards of
1309 registration and examination under supervision of the commissioner of occupational licensure

1310 and the commissioner of public health shall apply said standard definition and assessment of
1311 “good moral character” for applicants of certification or licensure. The commissioners shall hold
1312 at least 1 public hearing seeking input on the standard definition and assessment of “good moral
1313 character” for applicants of certification or licensure. In developing the standard definition and
1314 assessment of “good moral character”, the commissioners shall consider factors including, but
1315 not limited to: (i) the nature and gravity of any conduct that would cause concerns about an
1316 applicant’s moral character, including whether the conduct demonstrates a disregard for the
1317 welfare, safety or rights of another or disregard for honesty, integrity or trustworthiness; (ii) the
1318 nature of the job; (iii) the length of time that has passed since the conduct; (iv) the circumstances
1319 surrounding the conduct, including the age of the offender and contributing social conditions and
1320 biases; (v) evidence of rehabilitation, including subsequent work history and character
1321 references; and (vi) racial, ethnic and other inequities in the criminal justice system.

1322 SECTION 74. Said chapter 112 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 4 the
1323 following 3 sections:-

1324 Section 4A. (a) For the purposes of this section through section 4C, the following words
1325 shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

1326 “Clinician with independent practice authority”, a physician or nurse practitioner,
1327 psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialist or nurse anesthetist who has independent
1328 practice authority pursuant to sections 80E, 80H and 80J.

1329 “Health care practice”, a business, regardless of form, through which a registered
1330 practicing clinician offers health services; provided, however, that “health care practice” shall
1331 not include any entity that holds a license to operate a facility issued by the department of public

1332 health or the department of mental health or that is conducted by the federal government or the
1333 commonwealth.

1334 “Hospital health system”, an entity that directly or indirectly owns or controls at least 1
1335 hospital licensed by the department of public health pursuant to chapter 111.

1336 “Licensed independent clinical social worker,” a licensed independent clinical social
1337 worker who is licensed to practice in the commonwealth pursuant to sections 130 to 137,
1338 inclusive.

1339 “Management services organization”, a business that provides management or
1340 administrative services to a provider or provider organization for compensation.

1341 “Nurse anesthetist”, an advanced practice registered nurse who registered to practice
1342 advanced nursing practice in the commonwealth pursuant to sections 74, 80B and 80H.

1343 “Nurse-midwife”, a nurse-midwife who is registered to practice nurse-midwifery in the
1344 commonwealth pursuant to sections 74, 80B, 80C and 80G.

1345 “Nurse practitioner”, an advanced practice registered nurse who is registered to practice
1346 advanced nursing practice in the commonwealth pursuant to sections 74, 80B and 80E.

1347 “Physician”, a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy who is registered to practice
1348 medicine in the commonwealth pursuant to section 2.

1349 “Physician assistant”, a physician assistant who is registered to practice in the
1350 commonwealth pursuant to sections 9F and 9I.

1351 “Psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialist”, an advanced practice registered
1352 nurse who is registered to practice advanced nursing practice in the commonwealth pursuant to
1353 sections 74, 80B, 80E and 80J.

1354 “Psychologist”, a psychologist licensed to practice psychology in the commonwealth
1355 pursuant to sections 118 to 129B, inclusive.

1356 “Registered practicing clinician”, a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner,
1357 psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialist or nurse anesthetist.

1358 (b) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to restrict registered practicing clinicians from
1359 employment in a setting that does not constitute a health care practice.

1360 (c) Health care facilities or entities that hold a license issued by the department of public
1361 health or the department of mental health and management services organizations shall not
1362 directly or indirectly interfere with, control or otherwise direct the professional judgment or
1363 clinical decisions of health care practices or registered practicing clinicians, nurse-midwives,
1364 psychologists or licensed independent clinical social workers who provide health care services at
1365 or through said facilities or entities or at or through a health care practice.

1366 (d) Conduct prohibited under this section shall include, but not be limited to, controlling,
1367 either directly or indirectly, through discipline, punishment, threats, adverse employment actions,
1368 coercion, retaliation, or excessive pressure: (i) the amount of time spent with patients or the
1369 number of patients seen in a given time period, including but not limited to the time permitted to
1370 triage patients in the emergency department or evaluate admitted patients; (ii) the time period
1371 within which a patient must be discharged; (iii) decisions involving the patient’s clinical status,
1372 including, but not limited to, whether the patient should be kept in observation status, whether

1373 the patient should receive palliative care and where the patient should be placed upon discharge;
1374 (iv) the diagnosis, diagnostic terminology or codes that are entered into the medical record; (v)
1375 the appropriate diagnostic test for medical conditions; or (vi) any other conduct the department
1376 of public health determines by regulation would interfere with, control or otherwise direct the
1377 professional judgement or clinical decisions of registered practicing clinicians, nurse-midwives,
1378 psychologists or licensed independent clinical social workers; provided, however, that the
1379 department may establish exceptions to subsections (i) to (vi), inclusive, for the appropriate
1380 clinical supervision of those who are not clinicians with independent practice authority. Such
1381 health care facilities or entities or management services organizations shall not limit the range of
1382 clinical orders available to registered practicing clinicians either directly or by configuring the
1383 medical record to prohibit or significantly limit the clinical order options available.

1384 (e) Nondisclosure or non-disparagement agreements regarding subsections (i) to (vi),
1385 inclusive, to which registered practicing clinicians are a party shall be void and unenforceable.

1386 (f) Any policy or contract that has the effect of violating this subsection shall be void and
1387 unenforceable and shall be considered the unauthorized practice of medicine in violation of
1388 section 6 or the unauthorized practice of nursing in violation of section 80E, 80H or 80J. If a
1389 court of competent jurisdiction finds a policy, contract or contract provision void and
1390 unenforceable pursuant to this subsection, the court shall award the plaintiff reasonable
1391 attorney's fees and costs. Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of any person to bring any
1392 action relating to defamation, disclosure of confidential or proprietary information or trade
1393 secrets or similar torts.

1394 (g) The department of public health, in consultation with the health policy commission,
1395 shall promulgate regulations to effectuate the purposes of this section.

1396 Section 4B. (a) This section shall apply only to health care practices that are not owned or
1397 controlled by hospitals licensed by the department of public health under chapter 111 or
1398 nonprofit hospital health systems.

1399 (b) It shall be a violation of this section for a management services organization or other
1400 entity that is not a health care practice to exercise control over clinical decisions of a health care
1401 practice. A management services organization, or any other organization that is not a health care
1402 practice, that does the following shall be considered to have control over the clinical decisions of
1403 the health care practice: (i) managing, supervising, evaluating or recommending promotion or
1404 discipline of any owner of or registered practicing clinician associated with the health care
1405 practice; (ii) negotiating with third-party payers on behalf of a health care practice without first
1406 obtaining informed consent from the health care practice's owners; (iii) advertising or otherwise
1407 presenting as a health care practice or provider of health care services; or (iv) performing any
1408 other functions that the department of public health determines, by regulation, confers to a
1409 management services organization or any other entity that is not a health care practice the ability
1410 to control the clinical decisions of the health care practice or its registered practicing clinicians.

1411 (c) A health care practice shall maintain ultimate decision-making authority over: (i)
1412 personnel decisions involving registered practicing clinicians, including, but not limited to,
1413 employment status, compensation, hours or working conditions; (ii) coding or billing decisions;
1414 (iii) the selection and use of property, including, but not limited to, real property, medical
1415 equipment or medical supplies; (iv) the number of patients seen in a given period of time or the

1416 amount of time spent with each patient; (v) the appropriate diagnostic test for medical
1417 conditions; (vi) the use of patient medical records; (vii) referral decisions; or (viii) any other
1418 function or decision that the department of public health determines, by regulation, confers to a
1419 management services organization or any other entity that is not a health care practice the ability
1420 to control the clinical decisions of a health care practice or its registered practicing clinicians.

1421 (d) It shall be a violation of this section for a management services organization or any
1422 other entity that is not a health care practice to include in an agreement with any health care
1423 practice provisions that would: (i) restrict the ability of the health care practice or practice owner
1424 to exercise complete, unfettered control and discretion over the finances or capital of the health
1425 care practice, including, but not limited to, restricting the ability to create, buy or sell stock, issue
1426 dividends or sell the health care practice; (ii) restrict the ability of a person who owns stock in
1427 the health care practice to transfer, alienate or otherwise exercise unfettered discretion and
1428 control over their stock; (iii) restrict, in any way, the ability of the health care practice or
1429 clinicians with independent practice authority associated with the health care practice to provide
1430 health care services in any place, for any entity or in any form otherwise permitted by law; (iv)
1431 restrict the ability of the health care practice to contract with another management services
1432 organization for management or administrative services upon expiration of the current contract;
1433 (v) limit the ability of the health care practice or the practice's owners, employees or agents to
1434 publicly discuss the business relationship between the health care practice and the management
1435 services organization; provided, however, that this provision shall not limit the ability of any
1436 person to bring any action relating to defamation, disclosure of confidential or proprietary
1437 information or trade secrets or similar torts; (vi) limit access to, take control from or otherwise
1438 obscure from any registered practicing clinicians providing services in connection with the health

1439 care practice, the price, rate or amount of the charges for their services; (vii) establish, supervise,
1440 manage or otherwise control the health care practice's officers or directors; or (viii) create any
1441 other situation the department of public health determines, by regulation, could create the
1442 possibility of allowing the management services organization to control the clinical decisions of
1443 the health care practice or registered practicing clinicians.

1444 (e) A violation of this section shall constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine in
1445 violation of section 6 or the unauthorized practice of nursing in violation of section 80E, 80H or
1446 80J. Any provision of a contract or agreement that has the effect of violating this section shall be
1447 void and unenforceable. If a court of competent jurisdiction finds a policy, contract or contract
1448 provision void and unenforceable pursuant to this section, the court shall award the plaintiff
1449 reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

1450 (f) The department of public health, in consultation with the health policy commission,
1451 shall promulgate regulations to effectuate the purposes of this section.

1452 Section 4C. (a) Health care practices shall file with the department of public health a
1453 registration application containing such information as the department may reasonably require,
1454 including, but not limited to: (i) the identity of the applicant and of the registered practicing
1455 clinicians that constitute the practice; (ii) any management services organization under contract
1456 with the health care practice; (iii) a certified copy of the health care practice's certificate of
1457 organization, if any, as filed with the secretary of the commonwealth, or any applicable
1458 partnership agreement; (iv) the address of the health care practice; (v) the services provided by
1459 the health care practice; and (vi) any information the department, in consultation with the health
1460 policy commission and the center for health information and analysis, deems relevant for the

1461 state health plan and focused assessments pursuant to section 22 of chapter 6D and the health
1462 care resources inventory pursuant to section 9 of chapter 12C. The application shall be
1463 accompanied by a fee in an amount to be determined pursuant to section 3B of chapter 7. All
1464 health care practices registered in the commonwealth shall renew their certificates of registration
1465 with the department every 2 years. The department shall share information relevant to the state
1466 health plan and focused assessments pursuant to said section 22 of said chapter 6D with the
1467 commission and information relevant to the health care resources inventory pursuant to said
1468 section 9 of said section 12C with the center.

1469 (b) The department of public health may promulgate regulations to establish minimum
1470 requirements for the conduct of a health care practice, including, but not limited to: (i)
1471 compliance with this section; (ii) maintenance and access to medical records; and (iii) in the
1472 event of a planned closure of the health care practice or an unplanned event that prevents the
1473 health care practice from continuing operations, the development of a continuity plan to: (A)
1474 ensure access to medical records, (B) provide notice to patients, and (C) assist patients with
1475 transitioning to a new provider.

1476 SECTION 75. Section 9A of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
1477 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

1478 (17)(a) Residents of the commonwealth who are under the age of 19 and enrolled in
1479 MassHealth shall qualify for not less than 12 months of continuous eligibility; provided,
1480 however, that continuous eligibility shall not apply to: (i) residents who are 19 years of age or
1481 older, unless MassHealth provides continuous eligibility to such residents; (ii) individuals who
1482 are under the age of 19 and no longer reside in the commonwealth; (iii) residents under the age

1483 of 19 who requests voluntary disenrollment or whose representative requests such disenrollment
1484 on behalf of said resident; or (iv) residents under the age of 19 whose eligibility is determined to
1485 have been erroneously granted because of agency error or fraud, abuse or perjury attributed to
1486 said resident or their representative.

1487 (b) The executive office of health and human services shall maximize federal financial
1488 participation for the coverage and benefits provided under this section; provided, however, that
1489 continuous eligibility under subparagraph (a) shall not result in any reduction of federal financial
1490 participation; and provided further, that coverage and benefits provided under this paragraph
1491 shall not be contingent upon the availability of federal financial participation.

1492 SECTION 76. Subsection (a) of section 10Z of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as
1493 inserted by section 28 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after
1494 the definition of “Brand name drug” the following 3 definitions:-

1495 “Continuous glucose monitoring system”, a system to continuously sense, transmit and
1496 display blood glucose levels.

1497 “Delivery device”, a device that: (i) is used to deliver a brand name drug or a generic
1498 drug; and (ii) an individual can obtain with a prescription.

1499 “Diabetes treatment supplies”, supplies for the treatment of diabetes including, but not
1500 limited to, syringes, needles, blood glucose monitors, blood glucose monitoring strips for home
1501 use, strips to calibrate continuous blood glucose monitors, urine glucose strips, ketone strips,
1502 lancets, adhesive skin patches, insulin pump supplies, voice-synthesizers for blood glucose
1503 monitors for use by the legally blind and visual magnifying aids for use by the legally blind;

1504 provided, however, that diabetes treatment supplies shall not include a brand name drug, a
1505 generic drug, a continuous glucose monitoring system component or a delivery device.

1506 SECTION 77. Said subsection (a) of said section 10Z of said chapter 118E, as inserted by
1507 section 28 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting after the
1508 definition of “Generic drug” the following definition:-

1509 “Separate delivery device”, a device that is used to deliver a brand name drug or a
1510 generic drug and that can be obtained with a prescription separate from, or in addition to, the
1511 brand name drug or generic drug that the device delivers.

1512 SECTION 78. Subsection (b) of said section 10Z of said chapter 118E, as inserted by
1513 section 28 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the figure “2”
1514 and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 3.

1515 SECTION 79. Subsection (d) of said section 10Z of said chapter 118E, as inserted by
1516 section 28 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following 3
1517 paragraphs:-

1518 If use of a brand name drug or generic drug that the division selects requires a separate
1519 delivery device, the division shall select a delivery device for that drug in accordance with the
1520 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs, to the
1521 extent possible. The division shall provide coverage for the delivery device; provided, however,
1522 that the delivery device shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-
1523 insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible.

1524 The division shall select a continuous glucose monitoring system in accordance with the
1525 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs. The
1526 division shall provide coverage for the continuous glucose monitoring system and all
1527 components thereof; provided, however, that the continuous glucose monitoring system and all
1528 components thereof shall be not subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-
1529 insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible.

1530 The division shall provide coverage for necessary diabetes treatment supplies. Such
1531 supplies shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1532 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1533 SECTION 80. Subsection (f) of said section 10Z of said chapter 118E, as inserted by
1534 section 28 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following
1535 sentence:-

1536 This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and, when
1537 applicable, delivery devices, in the same manner in which the subsection applies to drugs.

1538 SECTION 81. Subsection (g) of said section 10Z of said chapter 118E, as inserted by
1539 section 28 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1540 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1541 SECTION 82. Subsection (h) of said section 10Z of said chapter 118E, as inserted by
1542 section 28 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1543 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1544 SECTION 83. Said section 10Z of said chapter 118E, as inserted by section 28 of chapter
1545 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

1546 (i) An enrollee and their prescribing health care provider shall have access to a clear,
1547 readily accessible and convenient process to request to use a different brand name drug or
1548 generic drug of the same pharmacological class in place of a brand name drug or generic drug
1549 selected under subsection (b). Such request for an exception shall be granted if: (i) the brand
1550 name drugs and generic drugs selected under subsection (b) are contraindicated or will likely
1551 cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental harm to the enrollee; (ii) the brand name drugs
1552 and generic drugs selected under subsection (b) are expected to be ineffective based on the
1553 known clinical characteristics of the enrollee and the known characteristics of the prescription
1554 drug regimen; (iii) the member or prescribing health care provider: (A) has provided
1555 documentation to the division establishing that the enrollee has previously tried the brand name
1556 drugs and generic drugs selected under subsection (b) while covered by the division or by a
1557 previous health insurance carrier or a health benefit plan; and (B) such prescription drug was
1558 discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect or an adverse event; or
1559 (iv) the enrollee or prescribing health care provider has provided documentation to the division
1560 establishing that the enrollee: (A) is stable on a prescription drug prescribed by the health care
1561 provider; and (B) switching drugs will likely cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental
1562 harm to the enrollee. This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and,
1563 when applicable, delivery devices.

1564 SECTION 84. Said chapter 118E, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out
1565 section 40 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

1566 Section 40. Any person or entity who directly or indirectly furnishes items or services for
1567 which payment may be made under this chapter, even if no items or services are provided, who:
1568 (1) knowingly and willfully makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of
1569 a material fact in any application for any benefit or payment under this chapter; (2) knowingly
1570 and willfully makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact
1571 for use in determining rights to such benefit or payment; (3) having knowledge of the occurrence
1572 of any event affecting his or her initial or continued right to any such benefit or payment, or the
1573 benefit of any other individual in whose behalf he or she has applied for or is receiving such
1574 benefit or payment, conceals or fails to disclose such an event with an intent fraudulently to
1575 secure such benefit or payment either in a greater amount or quantity than is due or when no such
1576 benefit or payment is authorized; or (4) having made application to receive any such benefit or
1577 payment for the use and benefit of another and having received it, knowingly and willfully
1578 converts such benefits or payment other than for the use and benefit of such person or entity,
1579 shall, if the amount is equal to or less than \$50,000, be punished by a fine of not more than ten
1580 one hundred thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five years
1581 or in a jail or house of correction for not more than two and one-half years, or by both such fine
1582 and imprisonment; or, if the amount is greater than \$50,000, be punished by a fine of not more
1583 than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more
1584 than ten years or in a jail or house of correction for not more than two and one-half years, or by
1585 both such fine and imprisonment.

1586 Any person or entity who does not furnish items of services for which payment may be
1587 made under this chapter, who violates any of the provisions of clauses (1) to (4), inclusive, shall,
1588 if the amount is equal to or less than \$50,000, be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of

1589 correction for not more than two and one-half years or by a fine of not more than five fifty
1590 thousand dollars or by both such fine and imprisonment; or, if the amount is greater than
1591 \$50,000, be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred thousand dollars, or by
1592 imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five years or in a jail or house of correction
1593 for not more than two and one-half years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

1594 SECTION 85. Section 1 of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
1595 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Foreign company” the
1596 following definition:-

1597 “Health insurance company”, a company that engages in the business of health insurance.

1598 SECTION 86. Said section 1 of said chapter 175, as so appearing, is hereby further
1599 amended by inserting after the definition of “Net value of policies” the following definition:-

1600 “Party of record”, for the purpose of a review by the commissioner of a written
1601 agreement for a merger or consolidation of 2 or more health insurance companies, the health
1602 policy commission, the center for health information and analysis, the attorney general, the
1603 center for health information and analysis and any government agency with relevant oversight or
1604 licensure authority over the proposed project or components therein.

1605 SECTION 87. Section 19A of said chapter 175, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
1606 adding the following 2 sentences:-

1607 A party of record may review a written agreement for a merger or consolidation of 2 or
1608 more health insurance companies submitted to the commissioner for written approval, as well as
1609 provide written comment or specific recommendations for consideration by the commissioner. If

1610 a party of record sends a written communication or submits written materials concerning a
1611 written agreement, the commissioner shall provide copies of such communication or materials to
1612 all other parties of record.

1613 SECTION 88. Subsection (a) of section 47CCC of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as
1614 inserted by section 31 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after
1615 the definition of “Brand name drug” the following 3 definitions:-

1616 “Continuous glucose monitoring system”, a system to continuously sense, transmit and
1617 display blood glucose levels.

1618 “Delivery device”, a device that: (i) is used to deliver a brand name drug or a generic
1619 drug; and (ii) an individual can obtain with a prescription.

1620 “Diabetes treatment supplies”, supplies for the treatment of diabetes including, but not
1621 limited to, syringes, needles, blood glucose monitors, blood glucose monitoring strips for home
1622 use, strips to calibrate continuous blood glucose monitors, urine glucose strips, ketone strips,
1623 lancets, adhesive skin patches, insulin pump supplies, voice-synthesizers for blood glucose
1624 monitors for use by the legally blind and visual magnifying aids for use by the legally blind;
1625 provided, however, that diabetes treatment supplies shall not include a brand name drug, a
1626 generic drug, a continuous glucose monitoring system component or a delivery device.

1627 SECTION 89. Said subsection (a) of said section 47CCC of said chapter 175, as inserted
1628 by section 31 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting after the
1629 definition of “Generic drug” the following definition:-

1630 “Separate delivery device”, a device that is used to deliver a brand name drug or a
1631 generic drug and that can be obtained with a prescription separate from, or in addition to, the
1632 brand name drug or generic drug that the device delivers.

1633 SECTION 90. Subsection (b) of said section 47CCC of said chapter 175, as inserted by
1634 section 31 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the figure “2”
1635 and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 3.

1636 SECTION 91. Subsection (d) of said section 47CCC of said chapter 175, as inserted by
1637 section 31 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following 3
1638 paragraphs:-

1639 If use of a brand name drug or generic drug that the carrier selects requires a separate
1640 delivery device, the carrier shall select a delivery device for that drug in accordance with the
1641 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs, to the
1642 extent possible. The carrier shall provide coverage for the delivery device; provided, however,
1643 that the delivery device shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-
1644 insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible.

1645 The carrier shall select a continuous glucose monitoring system in accordance with the
1646 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs. The
1647 carrier shall provide coverage for the continuous glucose monitoring system and all components
1648 thereof; provided, however, that the continuous glucose monitoring system and all components
1649 thereof shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1650 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1651 The carrier shall provide coverage for necessary diabetes treatment supplies. Such
1652 supplies shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1653 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1654 SECTION 92. Subsection (e) of said section 47CCC of said chapter 175, as inserted by
1655 section 31 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following
1656 sentence:- This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and, when
1657 applicable, delivery devices, in the same manner in which the subsection applies to drugs.

1658 SECTION 93. Subsection (f) of said section 47CCC of said chapter 175, as inserted by
1659 section 31 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1660 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1661 SECTION 94. Subsection (g) of said section 47CCC of said chapter 175, as inserted by
1662 section 31 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1663 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1664 SECTION 95. Said section 47CCC of said chapter 175, as inserted by section 31 of
1665 chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

1666 (h) A member and their prescribing health care provider shall have access to a clear,
1667 readily accessible and convenient process to request to use a different brand name drug or
1668 generic drug of the same pharmacological class in place of a brand name drug or generic drug
1669 selected under subsection (b). Such request for an exception shall be granted if: (i) the brand
1670 name drugs and generic drugs selected under subsection (b) are contraindicated or will likely
1671 cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental harm to the member; (ii) the brand name drugs
1672 and generic drugs selected under subsection (b) are expected to be ineffective based on the

1673 known clinical characteristics of the member and the known characteristics of the prescription
1674 drug regimen; (iii) the member or prescribing health care provider: (A) has provided
1675 documentation to the carrier establishing that the member has previously tried the brand name
1676 drugs and generic drugs selected under subsection (b); and (B) such prescription drug was
1677 discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect or an adverse event; or
1678 (iv) the member or prescribing health care provider has provided documentation to the carrier
1679 establishing that the member: (A) is stable on a prescription drug prescribed by the health care
1680 provider; and (B) switching drugs will likely cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental
1681 harm to the member. This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and,
1682 when applicable, delivery devices.

1683 SECTION 96. Said chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by
1684 inserting after section 47CCC, as inserted by section 31 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, the
1685 following section:-

1686 Section 47DDD. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
1687 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

1688 “340B drug”, a drug that has been subject to any offer for reduced prices by a
1689 manufacturer pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 256b and is purchased by a 340B grantee as defined in this
1690 section.

1691 “340B grantee”, a federally qualified health center, a non-state, government public safety
1692 net hospital system established pursuant to chapter 147 of the acts of 1996 or a non-profit acute
1693 care hospital in the commonwealth that received not less than 60 per cent of its gross patient
1694 service revenue in fiscal year 2021 from government payers, including Medicare, MassHealth

1695 and the Health Safety Net Trust Fund based on the hospital’s fiscal year 2021 cost report and that
1696 is also authorized to participate in the federal drug discount program under 42 U.S.C 256b,
1697 including its pharmacies or any contracted pharmacy.

1698 “Distributor”, a person engaged in the sale, distribution or delivery, at wholesale, of
1699 drugs or medicines within the commonwealth, including entities operating outside of the
1700 commonwealth that cause deliveries of drugs or medicines to be made within the
1701 commonwealth.

1702 “Federally qualified health center”, an entity receiving a grant under 42 U.S.C. 254(b).

1703 “Manufacturer”, an entity engaged in the production, preparation, propagation,
1704 compounding, conversion or processing of prescription drugs or medical devices, either directly
1705 or indirectly, by extraction from substances of natural origin, or independently by means of
1706 chemical synthesis or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis, or any entity
1707 engaged in the packaging, repackaging, labeling, relabeling or distribution of prescription drugs.

1708 “Pharmacy”, an entity engaged in the drug business, as defined in section 37 of chapter
1709 112, or engaged in the practice of compounding to fulfill a practitioner prescription.

1710 (b)(1) A manufacturer or distributor shall not deny, restrict, prohibit, or otherwise
1711 interfere with, either directly or indirectly, the acquisition of a 340B drug by, or delivery of a
1712 340B drug to, a pharmacy that is under contract with a 340B grantee and is authorized under
1713 such contract to receive and dispense 340B drugs on behalf of the covered entity unless such
1714 receipt is prohibited by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

1715 (2) A manufacturer or distributor shall not interfere with a contract between a pharmacy
1716 and a 340B grantee.

1717 (3) A 340B grantee shall have sole discretion of the type and quantity of 340B drugs
1718 acquired or delivered by a manufacturer or distributor to a pharmacy that is under contract with
1719 or otherwise authorized by a 340B grantee to receive and dispense 340B drugs on behalf of the
1720 340B grantee unless prohibited by federal or state law.

1721 (c) A manufacturer or distributor, agent, or affiliate of such manufacturer or distributor
1722 shall not, either directly or indirectly, require a 340B grantee, or a pharmacy that is under
1723 contract with a 340B grantee or is otherwise authorized by a 340B grantee to receive and
1724 dispense 340B drugs on behalf of the 340B grantee, to submit any claims, utilization, purchasing,
1725 or other data as a condition for allowing the acquisition of a 340B drug by, or delivery of a 340B
1726 drug to, a 340B grantee or a pharmacy that is under contract with a 340B grantee, unless the
1727 claims or utilization data sharing is required by the United States Department of Health and
1728 Human Services.

1729 (d) The commission of any act prohibited under subsections (b) and (c) of this section
1730 shall constitute an unfair or deceptive practice within the meaning of section 2 of chapter 93A.
1731 Each commission of a prohibited act shall constitute a separate violation.

1732 (e) The attorney general shall have jurisdiction, consistent with the provisions of chapter
1733 93A, to enforce the provisions of this section. The attorney general shall issue regulations to
1734 implement this chapter.

1735 (f) The board of registration in pharmacy shall promulgate regulations to implement and
1736 enforce of this section and may investigate any complaint of a violation of this section by an

1737 individual or entity licensed by the board and may impose discipline, suspension or revocation of
1738 any such license.

1739 (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed or applied to be less restrictive than any
1740 federal law as to any person or entity regulated by this section or to conflict with: (i) any
1741 applicable federal law and related regulations; and (ii) any other general law that is compatible
1742 with applicable federal law.

1743 (h) Limited distribution of a drug required under 21 U.S.C. 355-1 shall not be a violation
1744 of this section.

1745 SECTION 97. Subsection (a) of section 8DDD of chapter 176A of the General Laws, as
1746 inserted by section 33 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after
1747 the definition of “Brand name drug” the following 3 definitions:-

1748 “Continuous glucose monitoring system”, a system to continuously sense, transmit and
1749 display blood glucose levels.

1750 “Delivery device”, a device that: (i) is used to deliver a brand name drug or a generic
1751 drug; and (ii) an individual can obtain with a prescription.

1752 “Diabetes treatment supplies”, supplies for the treatment of diabetes including, but not
1753 limited to, syringes, needles, blood glucose monitors, blood glucose monitoring strips for home
1754 use, strips to calibrate continuous blood glucose monitors, urine glucose strips, ketone strips,
1755 lancets, adhesive skin patches, insulin pump supplies, voice-synthesizers for blood glucose
1756 monitors for use by the legally blind and visual magnifying aids for use by the legally blind;

1757 provided, however, that diabetes treatment supplies shall not include a brand name drug, a
1758 generic drug, a continuous glucose monitoring system component, or a delivery device.

1759 SECTION 98. Said subsection (a) of said section 8DDD of said chapter 176A, as inserted
1760 by section 33 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting after the
1761 definition of “Generic drug” the following definition:-

1762 “Separate delivery device”, a device that is used to deliver a brand name drug or a
1763 generic drug and that can be obtained with a prescription separate from, or in addition to, the
1764 brand name drug or generic drug that the device delivers.

1765 SECTION 99. Subsection (b) of said section 8DDD of said chapter 176A, as inserted by
1766 section 33 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the figure “2”
1767 and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 3.

1768 SECTION 100. Subsection (d) of said section 8DDD of said chapter 176A, as inserted
1769 by section 33 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following 3
1770 paragraphs:-

1771 If use of a brand name drug or generic drug that the carrier selects requires a separate
1772 delivery device, the carrier shall select a delivery device for that drug in accordance with the
1773 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs, to the
1774 extent possible. The carrier shall provide coverage for the delivery device; provided, however,
1775 that the delivery device shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-
1776 insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible.

1777 The carrier shall select a continuous glucose monitoring system in accordance with the
1778 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs. The
1779 carrier shall provide coverage for the continuous glucose monitoring system and all components
1780 thereof; provided, however, that the continuous glucose monitoring system and all components
1781 thereof shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1782 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1783 The carrier shall provide coverage for necessary diabetes treatment supplies. Such
1784 supplies shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1785 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1786 SECTION 101. Subsection (e) of said section 8DDD of said chapter 176A, as inserted by
1787 section 33 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following
1788 sentence:- This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and, when
1789 applicable, delivery devices, in the same manner in which the subsection applies to drugs.

1790 SECTION 102. Subsection (f) of said section 8DDD of said chapter 176A, as inserted by
1791 section 33 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1792 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1793 SECTION 103. Subsection (g) of said section 8DDD of said chapter 176A, as inserted by
1794 section 33 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1795 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1796 SECTION 104. Said section 8DDD of said chapter 176A, as inserted by section 33 of
1797 chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

1798 (h) A member and their prescribing health care provider shall have access to a clear,
1799 readily accessible and convenient process to request to use a different brand name drug or
1800 generic drug of the same pharmacological class in place of a brand name drug or generic drug
1801 selected under subsection (b). Such request for an exception shall be granted if: (i) the brand
1802 name drugs and generic drugs selected under subsection (b) are contraindicated or will likely
1803 cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental harm to the member; (ii) the brand name drugs
1804 and generic drugs selected under said subsection (b) are expected to be ineffective based on the
1805 known clinical characteristics of the member and the known characteristics of the prescription
1806 drug regimen; (iii) the member or prescribing health care provider: (A) has provided
1807 documentation to the carrier establishing that the member has previously tried the brand name
1808 drugs and generic drugs selected under subsection (b); and (B) such prescription drug was
1809 discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect or an adverse event; or
1810 (iv) the member or prescribing health care provider has provided documentation to the carrier
1811 establishing that the member: (A) is stable on a prescription drug prescribed by the health care
1812 provider; and (B) switching drugs will likely cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental
1813 harm to the member. This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and,
1814 when applicable, delivery devices.

1815 SECTION 105. The fifth paragraph of section 4 of chapter 176B of the General Laws, as
1816 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended striking out the first sentence and
1817 inserting in place thereof the following sentences:- Under such a group medical service
1818 agreement, subscription certificates and the rates charged by the corporation to the subscribers
1819 shall be filed with the commissioner within thirty days after their effective date. The
1820 commissioner shall approve, modify or disapprove any proposed changes to rates; provided,

1821 however, that the commissioner shall only modify or disapprove any proposed changes to rates
1822 that are excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory; provided, further, that group plan
1823 contracts issued and rates charged by a nonprofit medical service corporation to its subscribers
1824 providing supplemental coverage to medicare shall be subject to the provisions of chapter one
1825 hundred and seventy-six K if the subscribers, and not their employer, employers or
1826 representatives, are billed directly for such contracts. No classification of risk may be established
1827 on the basis of age.

1828 SECTION 106. Subsection (a) of section 4DDD of chapter 176B of the General Laws, as
1829 inserted by section 34 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after
1830 the definition of “Brand name drug” the following 3 definitions:-

1831 “Continuous glucose monitoring system”, a system to continuously sense, transmit and
1832 display blood glucose levels.

1833 “Delivery device”, a device that: (i) is used to deliver a brand name drug or a generic
1834 drug; and (ii) an individual can obtain with a prescription.

1835 “Diabetes treatment supplies”, supplies for the treatment of diabetes including, but not
1836 limited to, syringes, needles, blood glucose monitors, blood glucose monitoring strips for home
1837 use, strips to calibrate continuous blood glucose monitors, urine glucose strips, ketone strips,
1838 lancets, adhesive skin patches, insulin pump supplies, voice-synthesizers for blood glucose
1839 monitors for use by the legally blind and visual magnifying aids for use by the legally blind;
1840 provided, however, that diabetes treatment supplies shall not include a brand name drug, a
1841 generic drug, a continuous glucose monitoring system component or a delivery device.

1842 SECTION 107. Said subsection (a) of said section 4DDD of said chapter 176B, as
1843 inserted by section 34 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting
1844 after the definition of “Generic drug” the following definition:-

1845 “Separate delivery device”, a device that is used to deliver a brand name drug or a
1846 generic drug and that can be obtained with a prescription separate from, or in addition to, the
1847 brand name drug or generic drug that the device delivers.

1848 SECTION 108. Subsection (b) of said section 4DDD of said chapter 176B, as inserted by
1849 section 34 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the figure “2”
1850 and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 3.

1851 SECTION 109. Subsection (d) of said section 4DDD of said chapter 176B, as inserted by
1852 section 34 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following 3
1853 paragraphs:-

1854 If use of a brand name drug or generic drug that the carrier selects requires a separate
1855 delivery device, the carrier shall select a delivery device for that drug in accordance with the
1856 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs, to the
1857 extent possible. The carrier shall provide coverage for the delivery device; provided, however,
1858 that the delivery device shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-
1859 insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible.

1860 The carrier shall select a continuous glucose monitoring system in accordance with the
1861 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs. The
1862 carrier shall provide coverage for the continuous glucose monitoring system and all components
1863 thereof; provided, however, that the continuous glucose monitoring system and all components

1864 thereof shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1865 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1866 The carrier shall provide coverage for necessary diabetes treatment supplies. Such
1867 supplies shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1868 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1869 SECTION 110. Subsection (e) of said section 4DDD of said chapter 176B, as inserted by
1870 section 34 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following
1871 sentence:- This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and, when
1872 applicable, delivery devices, in the same manner in which the subsection applies to drugs.

1873 SECTION 111. Subsection (f) of said section 4DDD of said chapter 176B, as inserted by
1874 section 34 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1875 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1876 SECTION 112. Subsection (g) of said section 4DDD of said chapter 176B, as inserted by
1877 section 34 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1878 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1879 SECTION 113. Said section 4DDD of said chapter 176B, as inserted by section 34 of
1880 chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

1881 (h) A member and their prescribing health care provider shall have access to a clear,
1882 readily accessible and convenient process to request to use a different brand name drug or
1883 generic drug of the same pharmacological class in place of a brand name drug or generic drug
1884 selected under subsection (b). Such request for an exception shall be granted if: (i) the brand

1885 name drugs and generic drugs selected under said subsection (b) are contraindicated or will
1886 likely cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental harm to the member; (ii) the brand name
1887 drugs and generic drugs selected under said subsection (b) are expected to be ineffective based
1888 on the known clinical characteristics of the member and the known characteristics of the
1889 prescription drug regimen; (iii) the member or prescribing health care provider: (A) has provided
1890 documentation to the carrier establishing that the member has previously tried the brand name
1891 drugs and generic drugs selected under said subsection (b) while covered by the carrier or by a
1892 previous health insurance carrier or a health benefit plan; and (B) such prescription drug was
1893 discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect or an adverse event; or
1894 (iv) the member or prescribing health care provider has provided documentation to the carrier
1895 establishing that the member: (A) is stable on a prescription drug prescribed by the health care
1896 provider; and (B) switching drugs will likely cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental
1897 harm to the member. This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and,
1898 when applicable, delivery devices

1899 SECTION 114. Said section 3B of said chapter 176D, as appearing in the 2022 Official
1900 Edition, is hereby further amended by striking out the fifth paragraph and inserting in place
1901 thereof the following paragraph:-

1902 A carrier shall not prohibit a network pharmacy from offering and providing mail
1903 delivery services to an insured; provided, however, that the network pharmacy agrees to the
1904 reimbursement terms and conditions and discloses to the insured any delivery service fee
1905 associated with the delivery service.

1906 SECTION 115. Subsection (a) of section 4VV of chapter 176G of the General Laws, as
1907 inserted by section 35 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after
1908 the definition of “Brand name drug” the following 3 definitions:-

1909 “Continuous glucose monitoring system”, a system to continuously sense, transmit and
1910 display blood glucose levels.

1911 “Delivery device”, a device that: (i) is used to deliver a brand name drug or a generic
1912 drug; and (ii) an individual can obtain with a prescription.

1913 “Diabetes treatment supplies”, supplies for the treatment of diabetes including, but not
1914 limited to, syringes, needles, blood glucose monitors, blood glucose monitoring strips for home
1915 use, strips to calibrate continuous blood glucose monitors, urine glucose strips, ketone strips,
1916 lancets, adhesive skin patches, insulin pump supplies, voice-synthesizers for blood glucose
1917 monitors for use by the legally blind and visual magnifying aids for use by the legally blind;
1918 provided, however, that diabetes treatment supplies shall not include a brand name drug, a
1919 generic drug, a continuous glucose monitoring system component, or a delivery device.”

1920 SECTION 116. Said subsection (a) of said section 4VV of said chapter 176G, as inserted
1921 by section 35 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting after the
1922 definition of “Generic drug” the following definition:-

1923 “Separate delivery device”, a device that is used to deliver a brand name drug or a
1924 generic drug and that can be obtained with a prescription separate from, or in addition to, the
1925 brand name drug or generic drug that the device delivers.

1926 SECTION 117. Subsection (b) of said section 4VV of said chapter 176G, as inserted by
1927 section 35 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the figure “2”
1928 and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 3.

1929 SECTION 118. Subsection (d) of said section 4VV of said chapter 176G, as inserted by
1930 section 35 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following 3
1931 paragraphs:-

1932 If use of a brand name drug or generic drug that the carrier selects requires a separate
1933 delivery device, the carrier shall select a delivery device for that drug in accordance with the
1934 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs, to the
1935 extent possible. The carrier shall provide coverage for the delivery device; provided, however,
1936 that the delivery device shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-
1937 insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible.

1938 The carrier shall select a continuous glucose monitoring system in accordance with the
1939 criteria established in subsection (c) for selecting brand name drugs and generic drugs. The
1940 carrier shall provide coverage for the continuous glucose monitoring system and all components
1941 thereof; provided, however, that the continuous glucose monitoring system and all components
1942 thereof shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1943 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1944 The carrier shall provide coverage for necessary diabetes treatment supplies. Such
1945 supplies shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
1946 shall not be subject to any deductible.

1947 SECTION 119. Subsection (e) of said section 4VV of said chapter 176G, as inserted by
1948 section 35 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following
1949 sentence:- This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and, when
1950 applicable, delivery devices, in the same manner in which the subsection applies to drugs.

1951 SECTION 120. Subsection (f) of said section 4VV of said chapter 176G, as inserted by
1952 section 35 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the words
1953 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery devices.

1954 SECTION 121. Subsection (g) of said section 4VV of said chapter 176G, as inserted by
1955 section 35 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
1956 “drugs” the following words:- , continuous glucose monitoring systems and delivery device.

1957 SECTION 122. Said section 4VV of said chapter 176G, as inserted by section 35 of
1958 chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

1959 (h) A member and their prescribing health care provider shall have access to a clear,
1960 readily accessible and convenient process to request to use a different brand name drug or
1961 generic drug of the same pharmacological class in place of a brand name drug or generic drug
1962 selected under subsection (b). Such request for an exception shall be granted if: (i) the brand
1963 name drugs and generic drugs selected under said subsection (b) are contraindicated or will
1964 likely cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental harm to the member; (ii) the brand name
1965 drugs and generic drugs selected under said subsection (b) are expected to be ineffective based
1966 on the known clinical characteristics of the member and the known characteristics of the
1967 prescription drug regimen; (iii) the member or prescribing health care provider: (A) has provided
1968 documentation to the carrier establishing that the member has previously tried the brand name

1969 drugs and generic drugs selected under said subsection (b); and (B) such prescription drug was
1970 discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect or an adverse event; or
1971 (iv) the member or prescribing health care provider has provided documentation to the carrier
1972 establishing that the member: (A) is stable on a prescription drug prescribed by the health care
1973 provider; and (B) switching drugs will likely cause an adverse reaction in or physical or mental
1974 harm to the member. This subsection shall apply to continuous glucose monitoring systems and,
1975 when applicable, delivery devices.

1976 SECTION 123. The first paragraph of section 16 of chapter 176G of the General Laws,
1977 as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second
1978 sentence the following sentence:- The commissioner shall approve, modify or disapprove rates;
1979 provided, however, that the commissioner shall only modify or disapprove rates that are
1980 excessive, inadequate or unreasonable in relation to the benefits charged.

1981 SECTION 124. Subsection (c) of section 6 of chapter 176J of the General Laws, as
1982 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence
1983 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The commissioner shall approve, modify
1984 or disapprove any proposed changes to base rates; provided, however, that the commissioner
1985 shall only modify or disapprove any proposed changes to base rates that are excessive,
1986 inadequate or unreasonable in relation to the benefits charged.

1987 SECTION 125. The first paragraph of subsection (d) of section 7 of chapter 176K of the
1988 General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the
1989 second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The commissioner shall
1990 approve, modify or disapprove the proposed rates; provided, however, that the commissioner

1991 shall only modify or disapprove any proposed rates that are excessive, inadequate or
1992 unreasonable in relation to the benefits charged.

1993 SECTION 126. Section 2 of chapter 176O of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
1994 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

1995 (i) Every 3 years, a carrier that contracts with a pharmacy benefit manager shall conduct
1996 an audit of the operations of the pharmacy benefit manager to ensure compliance with this
1997 chapter and to examine the pricing and rebates applicable to prescription drugs that are provided
1998 to the carrier's covered persons.

1999 SECTION 127. Section 21 of said chapter 176O, as appearing in the 2022 Official
2000 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

2001 (f) The commissioner shall make all information submitted to the division pursuant to
2002 this section available to the center for health information and analysis.

2003 SECTION 128. Said chapter 176O, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by
2004 inserting after section 22 the following section:-

2005 Section 22A. Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, each
2006 carrier shall require that a pharmacy benefit manager receive a license from the division under
2007 chapter 176Y as a condition of contracting with that carrier.

2008 SECTION 129. Section 30 of said chapter 176O, as inserted by section 36 of chapter 342
2009 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- This section shall also
2010 apply to selected continuous glucose monitoring systems and, when applicable, delivery devices.

2011 SECTION 130. Chapter 176Y of the General Laws, as inserted by section 37 of chapter
2012 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof
2013 the following title:- LICENSING AND REGULATION OF PHARMACY BENEFIT
2014 MANAGERS AND PHARMACY SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

2015 SECTION 131. Section 1 of said chapter 176Y, as inserted by section 37 of chapter 342
2016 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Center” the following
2017 3 definitions:-

2018 “Clean claim”, a claim that has no defect or impropriety, including a lack of any required
2019 substantiating documentation, or other circumstance requiring special treatment that prevents
2020 timely payment from being made on the claim.

2021 “Covered individual”, an individual covered by insurance through a carrier or, to the
2022 extent permissible under federal law, a self-insurance plan.

2023 “Generic equivalent”, a drug listed as therapeutically equivalent and pharmaceutically
2024 equivalent A or B rated in the United States Food and Drug Administration's most recent version
2025 of the Orange Book or Green Book or has an NR or NA rating by Medi-Span, Gold Standard, or
2026 a similar rating by a nationally recognized reference.

2027 SECTION 132. Said section 1 of said chapter 176Y, as inserted by section 37 of chapter
2028 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by striking out the definition of “Health
2029 benefit plan” and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

2030 “Health benefit plan”, a contract, certificate or agreement entered into, offered or issued
2031 by a carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for or reimburse any of the costs of health care

2032 services; provided, however, that the commissioner may by regulation define other health
2033 coverage as a “health benefit plan” for the purposes of this chapter; provided, however, that
2034 health benefit plan shall include a self-insurance plan to the extent permissible under federal law.

2035 SECTION 133. Said section 1 of said chapter 176Y, as inserted by section 37 of chapter
2036 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Mail-order
2037 pharmacy” the following 6 definitions:-

2038 “Maximum allowable cost”, the maximum amount that a pharmacy benefit manager will
2039 reimburse a pharmacy for the cost of a generic or multiple source prescription drugs, excluding
2040 dispensing fees and copayments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing amounts, if any.

2041 “National Drug Code”, the numerical code assigned to a prescription drug by the United
2042 States Food and Drug Administration.

2043 “Net price”, a price for a prescription drug that takes into account all rebates received or
2044 expected to be received in connection with the dispensing or administration of the prescription
2045 drug.

2046 “Network pharmacy”, a pharmacy that contracts with a pharmacy benefit manager to
2047 participate in a pharmacy network.

2048 “Person”, a natural person, corporation, mutual company, unincorporated association,
2049 partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, trust, estate, foundation, not-for-profit
2050 corporation, unincorporated organization, government or governmental subdivision or agency.

2051 “Pharmaceutical wholesaler”, any person, partnership, corporation, or business licensed
2052 under section 36B of chapter 112 that purchases prescription drugs from a pharmaceutical
2053 manufacturer for the purpose of distributing to persons other than an individual.

2054 SECTION 134. Said section 1 of said chapter 176Y, as inserted by section 37 of chapter
2055 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of “Pharmacy” and
2056 inserting in place thereof the following 2 definitions:-

2057 “Pharmacy”, a physical or electronic facility under the direction or supervision of a
2058 registered pharmacist that is authorized to dispense prescription drugs and has entered into a
2059 network contract with a pharmacy benefit manager or a carrier, or to the extent permissible under
2060 federal law, a self-insurance plan.

2061 “Pharmacy acquisition cost”, the amount a pharmaceutical wholesaler charges for a
2062 pharmaceutical product as listed on the pharmacy’s billing invoice.

2063 SECTION 135. Said section 1 of said chapter 176Y, as inserted by section 37 of chapter
2064 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Pharmacy benefit
2065 manager” the following 4 definitions:-

2066 “Pharmacy benefit manager affiliate pharmacy”, a pharmacy that directly or indirectly,
2067 through 1 or more intermediaries, owns or controls, is owned or controlled by or is under
2068 common ownership or control with a pharmacy benefit manager.

2069 “Pharmacy network”, a group of pharmacies under contract with a pharmacy benefit
2070 manager to provide pharmacy services.

2071 “Pharmacy services administrative organization”, an entity that provides a contracted
2072 pharmacy with administrative, contracting, or payment services relating to prescription drug
2073 benefits.

2074 “Rebate”, any: (i) negotiated price concessions, whether described as a rebate or
2075 otherwise, including, but not limited to, base price concessions and reasonable estimates of any
2076 price protection rebates and performance-based price concessions that may accrue, directly or
2077 indirectly, to a carrier, pharmacy benefit manager or other party on a carrier’s behalf during a
2078 carrier’s plan year from a pharmaceutical manufacturing company, dispensing pharmacy or other
2079 party to the transaction based on the amounts the carrier received in the prior quarter or
2080 reasonably expects to receive in the current quarter; and (ii) reasonable estimates of any price
2081 concessions, fees and other administrative costs that are passed through, or are reasonably
2082 anticipated to be passed through to the carrier, pharmacy benefit manager or other party on the
2083 carrier’s behalf, and that serve to reduce the carrier’s prescription drug liabilities for the plan
2084 year based on the amounts the carrier received in the prior quarter or reasonably expects to
2085 receive in the current quarter.

2086 SECTION 136. Subsection (d) of section 2 of said chapter 176Y, as inserted by section
2087 37 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the words “or (ii)
2088 limiting the activities in which the license holder may be engaged” and inserting in place thereof
2089 the following words:- (ii) limiting the activities in which the license holder may be engaged; or
2090 (iii) addressing conflicts of interest between pharmacy benefit managers and health plan
2091 sponsors.

2092 SECTION 137. Subsection (g) of said section 2 of said chapter 176Y, as inserted by
2093 section 37 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following
2094 sentence:- Penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the Prescription Drug
2095 Cost Assistance Trust Fund established in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29.

2096 SECTION 138. Subsection (h) of said section 2 of said chapter 176Y, as inserted by
2097 section 37 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following
2098 sentence:- Penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the Prescription Drug
2099 Cost Assistance Trust Fund established in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29.

2100 SECTION 139. Said chapter 176Y, as inserted by section 37 of chapter 342 of the acts of
2101 2024, is hereby amended by adding the following sections:-

2102 Section 5. (a) A person, business or other entity shall not establish or operate as a
2103 pharmacy services administrative organization without obtaining a license from the division
2104 pursuant to this section. The division shall issue a pharmacy services administrative organization
2105 license to a person, business or other entity that demonstrates to the division that it has the
2106 necessary organization, background expertise and financial integrity to maintain such a license.
2107 A pharmacy services administrative organization license shall be valid for a period of 3 years
2108 and shall be renewable for additional 3-year periods. Initial application and renewal fees for the
2109 license shall be established pursuant to section 3B of chapter 7.

2110 (b) A license granted pursuant to this section and any rights or interests therein shall not
2111 be transferable.

2112 (c) A person, business or other entity licensed as a pharmacy services administrative
2113 organization shall submit data and reporting information to the center according to the standards
2114 and methods specified by the center pursuant to section 10A of chapter 12C.

2115 (d) The division may issue or renew a license pursuant to this section, subject to
2116 restrictions in order to protect the interests of consumers. Such restrictions may include: (1)
2117 limiting the type of services that a license holder may provide; (2) limiting the activities in which
2118 the license holder may be engaged; or (3) addressing conflicts of interest between pharmacy
2119 services administrative organization and pharmacy benefit managers.

2120 (e) The division shall develop an application for licensure of pharmacy services
2121 administrative organization that shall include, but not be limited to: (1) the name of the applicant
2122 or pharmacy services administrative organization; (2) the address and contact telephone number
2123 for the applicant or pharmacy services administrative organization; (3) the name and address of
2124 the agent of the applicant or pharmacy services administrative organization for service of process
2125 in the commonwealth; (4) the name and address of any person with management or control over
2126 the applicant or pharmacy services administrative organization; (5) the name and address of any
2127 person beneficially interested in the applicant or pharmacy services administrative organization;
2128 and (6) any audited financial statements specific to the applicant or pharmacy services
2129 administrative organization. An applicant or pharmacy services administrative organization shall
2130 report to the division any material change to the information contained in its application,
2131 certified by an officer of the pharmacy benefit manager, within 30 days of such a change.

2132 (f) The division may suspend, revoke, refuse to issue or renew or place on probation a
2133 pharmacy services administrative organization license for cause, which shall include, but not be

2134 limited to: (1) the applicant or pharmacy services administrative organization engaging in
2135 fraudulent activity that is found by a court of law to be a violation of state or federal law; (2) the
2136 division receiving consumer complaints that justify an action under this chapter to protect the
2137 health, safety and interests of consumers; (3) the applicant or pharmacy services administrative
2138 organization failing to pay an application or renewal fee for a license; (4) the applicant or
2139 pharmacy services administrative organization failing to comply with reporting requirements of
2140 the center under section 10A of chapter 12C; or (5) the applicant or pharmacy services
2141 administrative organization failing to comply with a requirement of this chapter.

2142 The division shall provide written notice to the applicant or pharmacy services
2143 administrative organization and advise in writing of the reason for any suspension, revocation,
2144 refusal to issue or renew or placement on probation of a pharmacy services administrative
2145 organization license under this chapter. A copy of the notice shall be forwarded to the center.
2146 The applicant or pharmacy services administrative organization may make written demand upon
2147 the division within 30 days of receipt of such notification for a hearing before the division to
2148 determine the reasonableness of the division's action. The hearing shall be held pursuant to
2149 chapter 30A.

2150 The division shall not suspend or cancel a license unless the division has first afforded
2151 the pharmacy services administrative organization an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to said
2152 chapter 30A.

2153 (g) If a person, business or other entity performs the functions of a pharmacy services
2154 administrative organization in violation of this chapter, the person, business or other entity shall
2155 be subject to a fine of \$5,000 per day for each day that the person, business or other entity is

2156 found to be in violation; provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to pharmacies.
2157 Penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the Prescription Drug Cost
2158 Assistance Trust Fund established in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29.

2159 (h) A pharmacy services administrative organization licensed under this section shall
2160 notify a pharmacy client in writing of any activity, policy, practice contract or arrangement of the
2161 pharmacy services administrative organization that directly or indirectly presents any conflict of
2162 interest with the pharmacy services administrative organization's relationship with or obligation
2163 to the pharmacy client.

2164 (i) The division shall adopt any written policies, procedures or regulations that the
2165 division determines are necessary to implement this section.

2166 Section 6. A pharmacy benefit manager shall not, by contract, written policy or written
2167 procedure, require that a pharmacy designated by the pharmacy benefit manager dispense a
2168 medication directly to a patient with the expectation or intention that the patient will transport the
2169 medication to a physician's office, hospital or clinic for administration.

2170 Section 7. (a) The pharmacy benefit manager shall have a duty and obligation to perform
2171 pharmacy benefit services with care, skill, prudence, diligence and professionalism.

2172 (b) A pharmacy benefit manager interacting with a covered individual shall have the
2173 same duty to a covered individual as the health benefit plan sponsor for whom it is performing
2174 pharmacy benefit services.

2175 (c) A pharmacy benefit manager shall have a duty of good faith and fair dealing with all
2176 parties, including but not limited to covered individuals and pharmacies, with whom it interacts
2177 in the performance of pharmacy benefit services.

2178 Section 8. (a) A pharmacy benefit manager shall establish a reasonably adequate and
2179 accessible pharmacy network that provides convenient access to network pharmacies within a
2180 reasonable distance from a covered individual's primary residence.

2181 (b) A pharmacy benefit manager may not deny a pharmacy that is licensed by the board
2182 of registration in pharmacy and complies with all standards established by the board the
2183 opportunity to participate in a pharmacy network.

2184 (c) The commissioner shall determine pharmacy network adequacy for a pharmacy
2185 benefit manager based on the availability of sufficient network pharmacies in the pharmacy
2186 network; provided, however, that a mail-order pharmacy shall not be included in the calculations
2187 for determining pharmacy network adequacy. The commissioner may take into consideration
2188 factors such as the location of network pharmacies and a covered individual's primary residence.

2189 (d) A pharmacy benefit manager shall not prohibit a network pharmacy from offering and
2190 providing mail delivery services to a covered individual; provided, however, that the network
2191 pharmacy agrees to the reimbursement terms and conditions and discloses to the covered
2192 individual any delivery service fee associated with the delivery service.

2193 (e) A pharmacy benefit manager shall not reimburse a network pharmacy an amount less
2194 than the amount that the pharmacy benefit manager reimburses a pharmacy benefit manager
2195 affiliate pharmacy for providing the same pharmacy services.

2196 Section 9. (a) After adjudication of a clean claim for payment made by a pharmacy, a
2197 pharmacy benefit manager shall not retroactively reduce payment on the claim, either directly or
2198 indirectly, through an aggregated effective rate, direct or indirect remuneration, quality assurance
2199 program or otherwise, except if the claim: (i) is found not to be a clean claim during the course
2200 of a routine audit performed pursuant to an agreement between the pharmacy benefit manager
2201 and the pharmacy; or (ii) was submitted as a result of fraud, waste, abuse or other intentional
2202 misconduct.

2203 (b) When a pharmacy adjudicates a claim, the reimbursement amount provided to the
2204 pharmacy by the pharmacy benefit manager shall constitute a final reimbursement amount;
2205 provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any retroactive
2206 increase in payment to a pharmacy pursuant to a contract between the pharmacy benefit manager
2207 or a pharmacy.

2208 (c) No pharmacy benefit manager shall charge or collect from a covered individual any
2209 cost-sharing amount that exceeds the total contracted amount by the pharmacy for which the
2210 pharmacy is paid. If a covered individual pays a copayment, the pharmacy shall retain the
2211 adjudicated costs and the pharmacy benefit manager shall not reduce or recoup the adjudicated
2212 cost.

2213 Section 10. (a) A drug shall not be placed on a maximum allowable cost list unless: (i)
2214 the drug is a generic equivalent; (ii) the drug is in stock and available for purchase by each
2215 pharmacy in the pharmacy benefit manager's network from wholesale drug distributors licensed
2216 under section 36B of chapter 112; and (iii) the drug is not obsolete.

2217 (b) A pharmacy benefit manager shall: (i) provide access to its maximum allowable cost
2218 list to each pharmacy in the pharmacy benefit manager's network that is subject to the maximum
2219 allowable cost list; (ii) update its maximum allowable cost list on a timely basis, but not less than
2220 once every 7 calendar days; (iii) provide a process for each pharmacy subject to the maximum
2221 allowable cost list to receive prompt notification of an update to the maximum allowable cost
2222 list; and (iv) provide a reasonable internal grievance process consistent with subsection (c) to
2223 allow pharmacies to challenge a maximum allowable cost list as not compliant with this section,
2224 and to challenge reimbursements made under a maximum allowable cost list for a specific drug
2225 or drugs that are below the pharmacy acquisition cost.

2226 (c)(1) A pharmacy benefit manager shall maintain a formal internal grievance process for
2227 pharmacies, in a form approved by the commissioner, and such formal internal grievance process
2228 shall provide for adequate consideration and timely resolution of grievances. A pharmacy benefit
2229 manager's internal grievance process shall include the following: (i) a dedicated telephone
2230 number, email address and website for the purpose of submitting a grievance; (ii) the ability to
2231 submit a grievance directly to the pharmacy benefit manager regarding the pharmacy benefits
2232 plan or program; and (iii) the ability to file a grievance within not less than 30 business days of
2233 the qualifying event.

2234 (2) The pharmacy benefit manager shall respond to a grievance within 30 business days
2235 of receipt of the grievance. If the pharmacy benefit manager determines as a result of the internal
2236 grievance process that the pharmacy benefit manager's challenged conduct was not compliant
2237 with this section, the pharmacy benefit manager shall: (i) provide the pharmacy with the National
2238 Drug Code upon which the maximum allowable cost was based; (ii) reprocess the claim; (iii)
2239 reimburse the pharmacy in an amount that is not less than the pharmacy acquisition cost; and (iv)

2240 to the extent practicable, reprocess claims submitted by similarly situated pharmacies and
2241 reimburse said pharmacies an amount that is not less than the pharmacy acquisition cost.

2242 (3) If the pharmacy benefit manager determines as a result of the internal grievance
2243 process that the pharmacy benefit manager's challenged conduct was compliant with this section,
2244 the pharmacy benefit manager shall: (i) provide the pharmacy with the National Drug Code upon
2245 which the maximum allowable cost was based and the name of any wholesale drug distributors
2246 licensed under section 36B of chapter 112 that have the drug currently in stock at a price below
2247 the maximum allowable cost; or (ii) if the National Drug Code provided by the pharmacy benefit
2248 manager is not available at a price below the pharmacy acquisition cost from the wholesale drug
2249 distributor from whom the pharmacy purchases the majority of its prescription drugs for resale,
2250 then the pharmacy benefit manager shall adjust the maximum allowable cost as listed on the
2251 maximum allowable cost list above the challenging pharmacy's pharmacy acquisition cost, and
2252 permit the pharmacy to reverse and rebill each claim affected by the inability to procure the drug
2253 at a cost that is equal to or less than the challenged maximum allowable cost.

2254 (d) A violation of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice under
2255 chapter 93A.

2256 Section 11. (a) A pharmacy benefit manager shall, to the extent permissible under
2257 applicable law, report annually to the commissioner for each carrier the following information:
2258 (i) the aggregate amount a pharmacy benefit manager charged carriers for pharmacy services;
2259 and (ii) the aggregate amount a pharmacy benefit manager paid to pharmacies.

2260 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with the health policy commission and the center
2261 for health information and analysis, shall report annually on the amounts reported under
2262 subsection (a), which shall be public record.

2263 Section 12. (a) A pharmacy benefit manager shall pass 100 per cent of rebates to a health
2264 benefit plan or carrier.

2265 (b) A pharmacy benefit manager shall, to the extent permissible under applicable law,
2266 report annually to the commissioner for each carrier the following information: (i) the total dollar
2267 amount in rebates received by the pharmacy benefit manager; and (ii) the total dollar amount in
2268 rebates distributed to a health benefit plan or carrier.

2269 (c) A carrier shall, to the extent permissible under applicable law, use 100 per cent of
2270 rebates to reduce premiums or cost-sharing for covered individuals.

2271 (d) A carrier shall, to the extent permissible under applicable law, report annually to the
2272 commissioner the following information: (i) the total dollar amount in rebates received from a
2273 pharmacy benefit manager; and (ii) the total dollar amount in rebates used to reduce premiums or
2274 cost-sharing for covered individuals.

2275 Section 13. (a) A carrier or pharmacy benefit manager shall apply any payment for a
2276 prescription drug made by a covered individual or on behalf of a covered individual to the
2277 covered individual's deductible, if any, and to the out-of-pocket maximum in the same manner as
2278 if the covered individual had purchased the prescription drug by paying the cost-sharing amount;
2279 provided, however, that the prescription drug: (i) does not have a generic equivalent, or, for a
2280 prescription drug that is a biological product, the prescription drug does not have a biosimilar
2281 drug, as defined in 42 U.S.C. sec.262 (i)(3); or (ii) has a generic equivalent, a biosimilar drug, or

2282 an interchangeable biological product, and the covered individual has: (A) obtained prior
2283 authorization from the carrier or pharmacy benefit manager; (B) complied with step-therapy
2284 protocol required by the carrier or pharmacy benefit manager; or (C) received approval from the
2285 carrier or pharmacy benefit manager through the carrier's or pharmacy benefit manager's
2286 exceptions, appeal, or review process. If under federal law, application of this requirement would
2287 result in health savings account ineligibility under section 223 of the federal Internal Revenue
2288 Code, this requirement shall apply for health savings account-qualified high deductible health
2289 plans with respect to the deductible of such a plan after the covered individual has satisfied the
2290 minimum deductible under section 223 of the federal Internal Revenue Code, except for with
2291 respect to items or services that are preventive care pursuant to section 223(c)(2)(C) of the
2292 federal Internal Revenue Code, in which case the requirements of this paragraph shall apply
2293 regardless of whether the minimum deductible under section 223 has been satisfied.

2294 (b) A carrier, pharmacy benefit manager or third-party administrator shall not directly or
2295 indirectly set, alter, implement or condition the terms of health benefit plan coverage, including
2296 the benefit design, based in part or entirely on information about the availability or amount of
2297 financial or product assistance available for a prescription drug.

2298 (c) The division may promulgate such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to
2299 implement this section.

2300 Section 14. (a)(1) A pharmacy benefit manager shall conduct an audit of the records of a
2301 pharmacy with which it contracts.

2302 (2) The contract between a pharmacy and a pharmacy benefit manager shall identify and
2303 describe the audit procedures in detail.

2304 (3) With the exception of an investigative fraud audit, the auditor shall give the pharmacy
2305 written notice not less than 2 weeks prior to conducting the initial on-site audit for each audit
2306 cycle.

2307 (4) A pharmacy benefit manager shall not audit claims beyond 2 years prior to the date of
2308 audit.

2309 (5) The auditor shall not interfere with the delivery of pharmacist services to a patient and
2310 shall make a reasonable effort to minimize the inconvenience and disruption to the pharmacy
2311 operations during the audit process.

2312 (6) Any audit that involves clinical or professional judgment shall be conducted by, or in
2313 consultation with, a licensed pharmacist from any state.

2314 (7) A finding of an overpayment or underpayment shall be based on the actual
2315 overpayment or underpayment. A statistically sound calculation for overpayment or
2316 underpayment may be used to determine recoupment as part of a settlement as agreed to by the
2317 pharmacy.

2318 (8) The auditor shall audit each pharmacy under the same standards and parameters with
2319 which they audit other similarly situated pharmacies.

2320 (9) An audit shall not be initiated or scheduled during the first 5 calendar days of any
2321 month for any pharmacy that averages more than 600 prescriptions per week without the
2322 pharmacy's consent.

2323 (10) A preliminary audit report shall be delivered to the pharmacy not later than 30 days
2324 after the conclusion of the audit.

2325 (11) The preliminary audit report shall be signed and shall include the signature of any
2326 pharmacist participating in the audit.

2327 (12) A pharmacy benefit manager shall not withhold payment to a pharmacy for
2328 reimbursement claims as a means to recoup money until after the final internal disposition of an
2329 audit, including the appeals process, as provided in subsection (b), unless fraud or
2330 misrepresentation is reasonably suspected or the discrepant amount exceeds \$15,000.

2331 (13) The auditor shall provide a copy of the final audit report to the pharmacy and plan
2332 sponsor within 30 days following the pharmacy's receipt of the signed preliminary audit report
2333 or the completion of the appeals process, as provided in subsection (b), whichever is later.

2334 (14) No auditing company or agent shall receive payment based upon a percentage of the
2335 amount recovered or other financial incentive tied to the findings of the audit.

2336 (b)(1) Each auditor shall establish an appeal process under which a pharmacy may appeal
2337 findings in a preliminary audit.

2338 (2) To appeal a finding, a pharmacy may use the records of a hospital, physician or other
2339 authorized prescriber to validate the record with respect to orders or refills of prescription drugs
2340 or devices.

2341 (3) A pharmacy shall have 30 days to appeal any discrepancy found during the
2342 preliminary audit.

2343 (4) The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs or any other recognized
2344 national industry standard shall be used to evaluate claims submission and product size disputes.

2345 (5) If an audit results in the identification of any clerical or record-keeping errors in a
2346 required document or record, the pharmacy shall not be subject to recoupment of funds by the
2347 pharmacy benefit manager; provided, that the pharmacy may provide proof that the patient
2348 received the medication billed to the plan via patient signature logs or other acceptable methods,
2349 unless there is financial harm to the plan or errors that exceed the normal course of business.

2350 (c) This section shall not apply to any audit or investigation of a pharmacy that involves
2351 potential fraud, willful misrepresentation or abuse, including, but not limited to, investigative
2352 audits or any other statutory or regulatory provision which authorizes investigations relating to
2353 insurance fraud.

2354 (d) This section shall not apply to a public health care payer, as defined in section 1 of
2355 chapter 12C.

2356 (e) The commissioner shall promulgate regulations to enforce this section.

2357 Section 15. A pharmacy benefit manager shall annually report to the commissioner: (i)
2358 any state or federal enforcement action taken against the pharmacy benefit manager, and (ii) any
2359 civil or criminal process or investigation involving the pharmacy benefit manager within the
2360 previous calendar year. The examination shall be conducted in accordance with subsection (6) of
2361 section 4 of chapter 175.

2362 Section 16. A pharmacy benefit manager shall submit to periodic audits by a licensed
2363 carrier if the pharmacy benefit manager has entered into a contract with the carrier to provide
2364 pharmacy benefits to the carrier or its members. The commissioner shall direct or provide
2365 specifications for such audits.

2366 Section 17. (a) A contract between a pharmacy benefit manager and a participating
2367 pharmacy or pharmacist or contracting agent shall not include any provision that prohibits,
2368 restricts, or limits a pharmacist or contracting agent or pharmacy's right to provide a covered
2369 individual with information on the amount of the covered individual's cost share for such
2370 covered individual's prescription drug and the clinical efficacy of a more affordable alternative
2371 drug if one is available. Neither a pharmacy nor a pharmacist shall be penalized by a pharmacy
2372 benefit manager for disclosing such information to a covered individual or for selling to a
2373 covered individual a more affordable alternative if one is available.

2374 (b) A pharmacy benefit manager shall not charge a pharmacist or pharmacy a fee related
2375 to the adjudication of a claim, including, without limitation, a fee for: (i) the receipt and
2376 processing of a pharmacy claim; (ii) the development or management of claims processing
2377 services in a pharmacy benefit manager network; or (iii) participation in a pharmacy benefit
2378 manager network, unless such fee is set out in a contract between the pharmacy benefit manager
2379 and the pharmacist or contracting agent or pharmacy.

2380 (c) A contract between a pharmacy benefit manager and a participating pharmacy or
2381 pharmacist or contracting agent shall not include any provision that prohibits, restricts, or limits
2382 disclosure of information to the division deemed necessary by the division to ensure a pharmacy
2383 benefit manager's compliance with the requirements under this section or section 21C of chapter
2384 94C.

2385 SECTION 140. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2386 commonwealth health insurance connector authority, in consultation with the division of
2387 insurance, shall report on the impact of pharmaceutical pricing on health care costs and outcomes

2388 for ConnectorCare and non-group and small group plans offered through the connector and its
2389 members.

2390 The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) information on the differential between
2391 drug list price and price net of rebates for plans offered and the impact of those differentials on
2392 member premiums; (ii) the relationship between drug list price and member cost-sharing
2393 requirements; (iii) the impact of drug price changes over time on premium and out-of-pocket
2394 costs in plans authorized under section 3 of chapter 176J of the General Laws offered through the
2395 commonwealth health insurance connector authority; (iv) trends in changes in drug list price and
2396 price net of rebates by health plan; (v) an analysis of the impact of member out-of-pocket costs
2397 on drug utilization and member experience; and (vi) an analysis of the impact of drug list price
2398 and price net of rebates on member formulary access to drug. Data collected under this
2399 subsection shall be protected as confidential and shall not be a public record under clause
2400 Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws or under chapter 66 of the General
2401 Laws.

2402 The report shall be submitted to the joint committee on health care financing and the
2403 house and senate committees on ways and means not later than July 1, 2027; provided, however,
2404 that the report shall be published on the website of the commonwealth health insurance
2405 connector authority not later than July 1, 2027.

2406 (b) In fiscal year 2026, the amount required to be paid pursuant to the last paragraph of
2407 section 6 of chapter 6D of the General Laws shall be increased by \$500,000; provided, however,
2408 that said \$500,000 shall be provided to the commonwealth health insurance connector authority

2409 not later than March 14, 2026 for data collection and analysis costs associated with the report
2410 required by this section.

2411 SECTION 141. The health policy commission shall consult with relevant stakeholders,
2412 including, but not limited to, consumers, consumer advocacy organizations, organizations
2413 representing people with disabilities and chronic health conditions, providers, provider
2414 organizations, payers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers and health care
2415 economists and other academics, to assist in the development and periodic review of regulations
2416 to implement section 24 of chapter 6D of the General Laws, including, but not limited to: (i)
2417 establishing the criteria and processes for identifying the proposed value of an eligible drug as
2418 defined in said section 24 of said chapter 6D; and (ii) determining the appropriate price increase
2419 for a public health essential drug as described within the definition of eligible drug in said
2420 section 24 of said chapter 6D.

2421 The commission shall hold its first public outreach not more than 45 days after the
2422 effective date of this act and shall, to the extent possible, ensure fair representation and input
2423 from a diverse array of stakeholders.

2424 SECTION 142. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 15A of chapter 6D of the
2425 General Laws, for the purposes of providing early notice under said section 15A of said chapter
2426 6D, the health policy commission shall determine a significant price increase for a generic drug
2427 to be defined as a generic drug priced at \$100 or more per wholesale acquisition cost unit that
2428 increases in cost by 100 per cent or more during any 12-month period.

2429 SECTION 143. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the
2430 purposes of monitoring and enforcing the health care cost growth benchmark for calendar years

2431 2022 to 2026, inclusive, the center for health information and analysis shall apply sections 8, 9,
2432 10, 16 and 18 of chapter 12C of the General Laws as those sections are in effect on December 1,
2433 2025.

2434 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purposes of
2435 monitoring and enforcing the health care cost growth benchmark for calendar years 2022 to
2436 2026, inclusive, the health policy commission shall apply sections 9 and 10 of chapter 6D of the
2437 General Laws as those sections are in effect on December 1, 2025.

2438 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the first benchmark cycle
2439 shall consist of the years 2026 and 2027. The health care cost growth benchmark for that
2440 benchmark cycle shall be the average of the 2026 health care cost growth benchmark that the
2441 health policy commission governing board established in 2025 and the growth rate of potential
2442 gross state product for 2027 established under section 7H½ of chapter 29 of the General Laws.

2443 (d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, not later than April 15,
2444 2026, the board shall establish the health care cost growth benchmark pursuant to section 9 of
2445 chapter 6D of the general laws for: (i) the benchmark cycle consisting of the years 2026 and
2446 2027; and (ii) the benchmark cycle consisting of the years 2027 and 2028.

2447 (e) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, on or before January 15,
2448 2026, the secretary and house and senate committees on ways and means shall jointly develop
2449 growth rates of potential gross state product pursuant to section 7H½ of chapter 29 of the
2450 General Laws for each of the calendar years of 2027 and 2028.

2451 SECTION 144. Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the
2452 contrary, section 13 of chapter 6D of the General Laws, as amended by this act, shall apply only

2453 to material change notices submitted after the effective date of this act; provided, however, that
2454 said section 13 of said chapter 6D shall apply to material changes that meet all of the following
2455 criteria: (i) the health policy commission received a completed material change notice regarding
2456 the material change on or after March 1, 2024; (ii) the health policy commission has not yet
2457 determined whether to conduct a cost and market impact review in regard to the material change;
2458 and (iii) the health policy commission classifies the material change as involving a provider or
2459 provider organization's merger or affiliation resulting in an increase in net patient service
2460 revenue of \$10,000,000 or more. For such material change notices, the health policy commission
2461 shall be permitted to require submission of a new or revised material change form, request
2462 additional documentation and information and take an additional 30 days to conduct its
2463 preliminary review.

2464 SECTION 145. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, section 26 of
2465 chapter 6D shall only apply to private equity companies that directly or indirectly own or
2466 controls a provider or provider organization and to financial actions taken by registered provider
2467 organizations with private equity investment after the effective date of this act.

2468 SECTION 146. Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the
2469 contrary, section 4B of chapter 112 of the General Laws shall apply only to contracts or
2470 agreements between health care practices and management services organizations entered into
2471 after January 1, 2027.

2472 SECTION 147. All health care practices required to register pursuant to section 4A of
2473 chapter 112 of the General Laws shall register with the board of registration in medicine not later
2474 than January 1, 2027.

2475 SECTION 148. The commissioner of occupational licensure and the commissioner of
2476 public health shall adopt the regulations required under section 73 not later than 6 months after
2477 the effective date of this act.

2478 SECTION 149. Section 142 is hereby repealed.

2479 SECTION 150. The health policy commission, in consultation with the department of
2480 public health, the office of Medicaid, the group insurance commission and the division of
2481 insurance, shall study and analyze health insurance payer, including public and private payer,
2482 specialty pharmacy networks in the commonwealth. The study shall include: (i) a description of
2483 the type of specialty drugs most often provided by specialty pharmacies; (ii) the impact of
2484 existing health insurance payers' specialty pharmacy networks on patient access, availability of
2485 clinical support, continuity of care, safety, quality, cost sharing and health care costs; and (iii)
2486 any recommendations for increasing patient access to and choice of specialty drugs, maintaining
2487 high-quality specialty pharmacy standards and meeting the commonwealth's health care cost
2488 containment goals.

2489 The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the clerks
2490 of the senate and house of representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means,
2491 the joint committee on health care financing and the joint committee on public health not later
2492 than July 1, 2025.

2493 SECTION 151. The board of registration in pharmacy shall promulgate regulations
2494 required by subsection (f) of section 47DDD of chapter 175 of the General Laws not later than 3
2495 months after the effective date of this act.

2496 SECTION 152. Section 17Z of chapter 32A, section 10Z of chapter 118E, section 47CCC
2497 of chapter 175, section 8DDD of chapter 176A, section 4DDD of chapter 176B and section 4VV
2498 of chapter 176G shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

2499 SECTION 153. The commissioner of insurance shall promulgate regulations to
2500 implement sections 5 through 17, inclusive, of chapter 176Y of the General Laws not later than
2501 October 1, 2026.

2502 SECTION 154. Sections 130 through 139, inclusive, shall take effect on March 30, 2026.

2503 SECTION 155. Section 149 shall take effect on January 1, 2027.