

HOUSE No. 1075

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1075) of Viriato Manuel deMacedo and others for legislation to establish a state pharmacy council to coordinate agencies in lowering prescription drug costs, Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing the state pharmacy council.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	1st Plymouth
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	20th Middlesex
George N. Peterson, Jr.	9th Worcester
Elizabeth Poirier	14th Bristol
Paul K. Frost	7th Worcester
Susan Williams Gifford	2nd Plymouth
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Bradford R. Hill	4th Essex
Robert S. Hargraves	1st Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STATE PHARMACY COUNCIL.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a
2 state pharmacy council which shall consist of the commissioner of public health, or
3 designee; the commissioner of insurance, or designee; the secretary of elder affairs, or
4 designee; the secretary of health and human services, or designee; three consumers, to be
5 appointed by the governor; a member from the Massachusetts Medical Society, so-called; a
6 member from Massachusetts Pharmacists Association, so-called; a member from the
7 Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association, so-called; a member from the
8 Massachusetts Chain Pharmacy Council, so called; a member from the Massachusetts Society of
9 Health-System Pharmacists, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts Biotechnology
10 Council, so-called; a member from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, so-called; a member from Blue
11 Cross Blue Shield, so-called; a member from Tufts Health Plan, so-called; a member from
12 Commonwealth Communities, so called; and a member from Massachusetts Association of
13 Health Plans, so-called. The appointed members shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily

14 incurred in the performance of their duties. The state pharmacy council shall meet at least
15 quarterly.

16 SECTION 2. The state pharmacy council shall act to coordinate the agencies within the
17 executive office of health and human services and the division of insurance in their effort to
18 lower prescription drug costs for the state. The state pharmacy council shall be responsible for
19 ensuring the ongoing communication and coordination between agencies and the agencies'
20 communications with the legislature, while having a vested interest in achieving savings in
21 prescription drug spending. The state pharmacy council shall explore improvements in program
22 costs, access, and quality.

23 SECTION 3. The state pharmacy council shall review legislation and regulations relating to
24 programs and operations relative to pharmaceuticals and shall make recommendations
25 concerning the effect of such legislation or regulation. Said council shall recommend policies
26 which will contribute to lowering prescription drug costs in the state. Said council shall
27 recommend policies for the conduct, supervision or coordination of relationships between state
28 and county agencies, other state and local government agencies, federal agencies and
29 nongovernmental entities with respect to all matters relating to prescription drugs in the state.