

**SENATE . . . . . No. 530**

By Ms. Melconian, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 530) of Linda J. Melconian, Rachel Kaprielian, Michael R. Knapik, Robert E. Travaglini, Brian P. Lees, Dennis M. Murphy and Stanley C. Rosenberg for legislation relative to strip unit dosage or medications in long term care facilities. Health Care.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO STRIP UNIT DOSAGE.

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

1 The department of public health, in consultation with the med-  
2 ical assistance program of the department of public welfare, is  
3 hereby directed to develop a cost-effective and safe plan for a unit  
4 dose medication system for long-term care facilities in the com-  
5 monwealth. Said plan shall include, but not be limited to, the fol-  
6 lowing components: a requirement of drug manufacturers,  
7 distributors or wholesalers to reclaim and recycle pharmaceuticals  
8 that otherwise would be disposed of in a nursing home, a revision  
9 of the dispensing requirements to permit usage of pharmaceuticals  
10 that otherwise would be disposed of in a nursing home, a revision  
11 of the dispensing requirements to permit pharmacists to more fre-  
12 quently dispense the dosage specified on a thirty-day prescription  
13 form issued to or on behalf of a nursing home resident, and other  
14 revisions in statutes, regulations or practices to eliminate the  
15 waste and disposal of drugs dispensed in long-term care facilities.  
16 The commissioner shall file said plan as well as such rules as he  
17 deems necessary for implementation of the plan with the clerk of  
18 the house of representatives, on or before June thirtieth, nineteen  
19 hundred and ninety-five. The clerk of the house of representatives,  
20 with the approval of the president of the senate and the speaker of  
21 the house of representatives shall refer such regulations to the  
22 joint committee on health care. Within thirty days of such referral,

23 said committee may hold a public hearing on the regulations and  
 24 shall issue a report to the commissioner. Said commissioner shall  
 25 review said report and shall adopt final regulations as deemed  
 26 appropriate in view of said report, and said regulations shall take  
 27 effect as of the first of June, nineteen hundred and ninety-six.