

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1988**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Louis L. Kafka*

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the availability of prescription medication during an emergency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>
<i>Michael J. Moran</i>	<i>18th Suffolk</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>



**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1988**

By Mr. Kafka of Stoughton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1988) of Louis L. Kafka and others relative to the availability of prescription medication during an emergency. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4215 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to the availability of prescription medication during an emergency.

*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 2A of chapter 17 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second paragraph the following  
3 paragraph:-

4 The commissioner shall implement the statewide plan for making prescription drugs  
5 available during a state of emergency pursuant to section 230 of chapter 111.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
7 inserting the following section:-

8 Section 230. The department shall, in consultation with the board of registration in  
9 pharmacy, the division of insurance, the office of Medicaid and the Massachusetts emergency

10 management agency, develop and publicize a statewide plan for ensuring the availability of  
11 prescription medications during a state of emergency declared by the governor. The plan shall  
12 include, but not be limited to:

13 (a) allowance for early refills of prescriptions, if the current amount that a patient  
14 possesses is not expected to last beyond 10 days of the date of the declaration of emergency;  
15 provided, however, that a pharmacist shall confirm such prescription with the prescriber before  
16 each refill;

17 (b) ensuring that vehicles delivering medications to pharmacies and hospitals be given the  
18 same road access available to other emergency vehicles;

19 (c) ensuring that the system does not create a duplicate or redundant supply chain  
20 infrastructure;

21 (d) coordination among pharmaceutical manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors,  
22 pharmacists and other industry stakeholders; and,

23 (e) creation of a safety net system including a toll-free telephone number and a website  
24 for citizens to contact during the emergency for assistance in locating prescription medication, in  
25 the event no medications are available to them locally.