

HOUSE No. 915

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer E. Benson

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 ensuring access to medications.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>

Richard M. Haggerty
John H. Rogers

30th Middlesex
12th Norfolk

HOUSE No. 915

By Ms. Benson of Lunenburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 915) of Jennifer E. Benson and others relative to ensuring access to certain medications. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act ensuring access to medications.

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 3B of Chapter 176D of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "network" in line 70, the
3 following sentence:-

4 A carrier shall not prohibit the dispensing of specialty drugs as defined by this section
5 that are included in its pharmaceutical drug benefits to insureds by any licensed pharmacy
6 provided that the pharmacy is able to provide the special handling, administration and
7 monitoring requirements of the specialty drug.; and

8 said section 3B, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting, after the word
9 “process” in line 119, the following sentence:

10 The term "specialty drugs" shall mean prescription medications that require special
11 handling, administration or monitoring.

12 SECTION 2. Section 39 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
13 adding the following:-

14 Section 39J. (a) The board shall establish a procedure to license specialty pharmacies,
15 which prescribe, ship, mail, sell or dispense specialty medications in the commonwealth, that
16 pertains to the practice of pharmacy. The board shall also take steps to ensure that all shipments
17 of pharmaceuticals from in-state pharmacies to out-of-state destinations are in compliance with
18 the licensing procedures applicable to pharmacies in the commonwealth. Further, for the
19 purposes of this section a specialty pharmacy shall not be defined as a mail service pharmacy and
20 may include any registered pharmacy in the commonwealth engaged in the dispensing of
21 specialty medications as defined in section 3B of Chapter 176D.

22 (b) A specialty pharmacy shall designate a pharmacist in charge who shall register with
23 the board and shall be responsible for the pharmacy's compliance with this chapter. Such
24 pharmacist in charge shall be licensed and in good standing with the state board of registration in
25 pharmacy in which the pharmacy is located.

26 (1) The designated pharmacist in charge shall disclose to the board the location, name
27 and title of all principal managers and the name and Massachusetts license number of the
28 designated pharmacist in charge, if applicable, and a letter from the in-state board of registration
29 of pharmacy certifying that the pharmacist in charge is in good standing with the in-state board
30 of registration. The designated pharmacist in charge shall submit a report containing this
31 information and a copy of the certifying letter of good standing on an annual basis and within 30
32 days after any change of office, corporate office or manager of record.

33 (2) The designated pharmacist in charge shall certify to the board that the pharmacy
34 maintains, at all times, a current unrestricted license, permit or registration to conduct the
35 pharmacy in compliance with the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which it is licensed
36 to practice. The pharmacy shall certify its compliance with reasonable informational requests
37 made by the board. The pharmacy shall also notify the board of any enforcement or disciplinary
38 action taken against the pharmacy regardless of the state in which the enforcement action is
39 taken.

40 (3) The designated pharmacist in charge shall certify to the board that the pharmacy
41 maintains records of all drugs dispensed to patients in the commonwealth, and that these records
42 are readily available, upon the request of the board. A list of drugs dispensed in the
43 commonwealth shall be sent to the board annually.

44 (c) No pharmacy or pharmacist operating outside of the state shall prescribe, ship, mail,
45 sell, transfer or dispense drug preparations in the commonwealth unless that pharmacy has been
46 granted a specialty license pursuant to this section.

47 SECTION 3. The division of insurance shall promulgate regulations to enforce section 1
48 of this act and the board of registration in pharmacy shall promulgate regulations to enforce
49 section 2 of this act.