

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ms. Tucker

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 reducing medication errors in the Commonwealth .

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Ms. Tucker

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Essex and Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT REDUCING MEDICATION ERRORS IN THE COMMONWEALTH .

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 16E(b) of Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting the following paragraphs:-

3 “Adverse drug event”, Any injury due to medication.

4 “Medication error”, Any error occurring in the medication-use process.

5 Section 2. Section 16E of Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the
6 following section:-

7 (g) The department of public health, in consultation with the center, shall create an independent
8 expert panel to study medication errors and adverse drug events. At least 1 member of the expert
9 panel shall be a health care consumer representative. The expert panel shall issue a report on the
10 frequency, nature and location of occurrence of medication errors and adverse drug events. The
11 expert panel shall make recommendations for reducing medication errors and adverse drug
12 events across all settings of care. The expert panel shall file a comprehensive report under this
13 section with the Joint Committees on Public Health and Health Care Financing no later than
14 December 31, 2010. Based on the panel’s recommendations, the department of public health
15 shall promulgate regulations to reduce medication errors in the Commonwealth.

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