

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1154**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Carmin Lawrence Gentile***

*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 to reduce drug costs through transparency.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Carmin Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>

*Bruce E. Tarr*  
*José F. Tosado*

*First Essex and Middlesex*  
*9th Hampden*

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**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1154**

By Mr. Gentile of Sudbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1154) of Carmine Lawrence Gentile and others relative to pharmacy benefit managers and pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. Health Care Financing.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to reduce drug costs through transparency.

*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 1 of chapter 6D, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after the definition of “Performance penalty” the following 3 definitions: -

3 “Pharmaceutical manufacturing company”, any entity engaged in the production,  
4 preparation, propagation, compounding, conversion or processing of prescription drugs, either  
5 directly or indirectly, by extraction from substances of natural origin, or independently by means  
6 of chemical synthesis or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis, or any entity  
7 engaged in the packaging, repackaging, labeling, relabeling or distribution of prescription drugs;  
8 provided however, that “pharmaceutical manufacturing company” shall not include a wholesale  
9 drug distributor licensed pursuant to section 36A of chapter 112 or a retail pharmacist registered  
10 pursuant to section 38 of said chapter 112.

11 “Pharmacy benefit manager”, any person, business or entity, however organized, that  
12 administers, either directly or through its subsidiaries, pharmacy benefit services for prescription

13 drugs and devices on behalf of health benefit plan sponsors, including, but not limited to, self-  
14 insured employers, insurance companies and labor unions.

15 “Pharmacy benefit services” shall include, but not be limited to: formulary  
16 administration; drug benefit design; pharmacy network contracting; pharmacy claims processing;  
17 mail and specialty drug pharmacy services; and cost containment, clinical, safety, adherence  
18 programs for pharmacy services.

19 For the purposes of the chapter, a health benefit plan that does not contract with a  
20 pharmacy benefit manager shall be a pharmacy benefit manager.

21 SECTION 2. Section 4 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
22 striking out, in lines 6 and 7, the word “manufacturers” and inserting in place thereof the  
23 following words:- manufacturing companies, pharmacy benefit managers.

24 SECTION 3. Section 6 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding  
25 the following paragraph: -

26 If the analysis of spending trends with respect to the pharmaceutical or biopharmaceutical  
27 products increases the expenses of the commission, the estimated increases in the commission’s  
28 expenses shall be assessed fully to pharmaceutical manufacturing companies and pharmacy  
29 benefit managers in the same manner as the assessment pursuant to section 68 of chapter 118E.  
30 A pharmacy benefit manager that is a surcharge payor subject to the preceding paragraph and  
31 administers its own prescription drug, prescription device or pharmacist services or prescription  
32 drug and device and pharmacist services portion shall not be subject to additional assessment  
33 under this paragraph.

34 SECTION 4. Section 8 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
35 inserting after the word “organization”, in lines 6 and 7, the following words: -, pharmacy benefit  
36 manager, pharmaceutical manufacturing company.

37 SECTION 5. Said section 8 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further  
38 amended by inserting after the word “organizations”, in line 14, the following words: -,  
39 pharmacy benefit managers, pharmaceutical manufacturing companies.

40 SECTION 6. Said section 8 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further  
41 amended by striking out, in lines 32 and 33 , the words “and (xi) any witness identified by the  
42 attorney general or the center” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- (xi) 2  
43 pharmacy benefit managers; (xii) 3 pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, 1 of which shall  
44 be representative of a publicly traded drug manufacturing, 1 of which shall be representative of  
45 and doing business in generic drug manufacturing and 1 of which shall have been in existence  
46 for fewer than 10 years; (xiii) the assistant secretary for MassHealth; and (xiv) any witness  
47 identified by the attorney general or the center.

48 SECTION 7. Said section 8 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further  
49 amended by striking out, in line 48, the first time it appears, the word “and”.

50 SECTION 8. Said section 8 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby further  
51 amended by inserting after the word “commission”, in line 59, the first time it appears, the  
52 following words:- ; (iii) in the case of pharmacy benefit managers and pharmaceutical  
53 manufacturing companies, testimony that is suitable for public release and that is not likely to  
54 compromise the financial, competitive or proprietary nature of any information and data  
55 concerning factors underlying prescription drug costs and price increases; the impact of

56 aggregate manufacturer rebates, discounts and other price concessions on net pricing; and any  
57 other matters as determined by the commission; and (iv) in the case of the assistant secretary for  
58 MassHealth, testimony concerning the structure, benefits, caseload and financing related  
59 programs administered by the office or entered into in partnership with other state and federal  
60 agencies and the agency's activities to align or redesign those programs in order to encourage the  
61 development of more integrated and efficient health care delivery systems. No pharmaceutical  
62 manufacturing company identified as a witness under this section, or any testimony by any such  
63 company, shall be subject to the provisions of section 17 of chapter 12C.

64 SECTION 9. Subsection (g) of said section 8 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is  
65 hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following  
66 sentence:- The report shall be based on the commission's analysis of information provided at the  
67 hearings by witnesses, providers, provider organizations, insurers, pharmaceutical manufacturing  
68 companies and pharmacy benefit managers, registration data collected pursuant to section 11,  
69 data collected or analyzed by the center pursuant to sections 8, 9, 10,10A and 10B of chapter  
70 12C and any other available information that the commission considers necessary to fulfill its  
71 duties in this section, as defined in regulations promulgated by the commission.

72 SECTION 10. Section 9 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
73 inserting after the word "organization", in line 72, the following words: -, pharmacy benefit  
74 manager, pharmaceutical manufacturing company.

75 SECTION 11. Section 11 of said chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
76 inserting after the figure "\$500,000", in line 152, the following words:- the first time that a  
77 determination is made, not more than \$750,000 for a second determination and not more than

78 \$1,000,000 for a third or subsequent determination; provided, however, that a civil penalty  
79 assessed pursuant to 1 of the above clauses shall be a first offense if a previously assessed  
80 penalty was assessed pursuant to a different clause. A civil penalty assessed pursuant to this  
81 subsection shall be deposited into the Community Hospital Reinvestment Trust Fund established  
82 in section 2TTTT of chapter 29.

83 SECTION 12. Section 1 of chapter 12C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
84 amended by inserting after the definition of “Patient-centered medical home” the following 4  
85 definitions:-

86 “Pharmaceutical manufacturing company”, any entity engaged in the production,  
87 preparation, propagation, compounding, conversion or processing of prescription drugs, either  
88 directly or indirectly, by extraction from substances of natural origin, or independently by means  
89 of chemical synthesis or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis, or any entity  
90 engaged in the packaging, repackaging, labeling, relabeling or distribution of prescription drugs;  
91 provided however, that “pharmaceutical manufacturing company” shall not include a wholesale  
92 drug distributor licensed pursuant to section 36A of chapter 112 or a retail pharmacist registered  
93 pursuant to section 38 of said chapter 112.

94 “Pharmacy benefit manager”, any person, business, or entity, however organized, that  
95 administers, either directly or through its subsidiaries, pharmacy benefit services for prescription  
96 drugs and devices on behalf of health benefit plan sponsors, including, but not limited to, self-  
97 insured employers, insurance companies and labor unions;

98 “Pharmacy benefit services” shall include, but not be limited to, formulary  
99 administration; drug benefit design; pharmacy network contracting; pharmacy claims processing;

100 mail and specialty drug pharmacy services; and cost containment, clinical, safety, and adherence  
101 programs for pharmacy services.

102 For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that does not contract with a  
103 pharmacy benefit manager shall be a pharmacy benefit manager, unless specifically exempted.

104 “Pipeline drug”, a prescription drug product containing a new molecular entity for which  
105 the sponsor has submitted a new drug application or biologics license application and received an  
106 action date from the federal Food and Drug Administration.

107 SECTION 13. Said section 1 of said chapter said 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
108 amended by adding the following definition:-

109 “Wholesale acquisition cost”, the cost of a prescription drug as defined in 42 U.S.C.  
110 §1395w-3a(c)(6)(B).

111 (4) develop annual research and analysis priorities for the center; provided  
112 however, that the council shall not require approval of the center’s actions pursuant to section 16,  
113 section 38C and 38D of chapter 3 or section 17 of chapter 176A.

114 SECTION 14. Section 3 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
115 inserting after the word “organizations”, in lines 13 and 14, the following words:- ,  
116 pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, pharmacy benefit managers.

117 SECTION 15. Said section 3 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
118 amended by striking out, in line 24, the words “and payer” and inserting in place thereof the  
119 following words: - , payer, pharmaceutical manufacturing company and pharmacy benefit  
120 manager.



121 SECTION 16. Section 5 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
122 inserting after the word “organizations”, in line 11, the following words: - , pharmaceutical  
123 manufacturing companies, pharmacy benefit managers.

124 SECTION 17. Said section 5 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
125 amended by inserting after the word “providers”, in line 15, the following words:- , affected  
126 pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, affected pharmacy benefit managers.

127 SECTION 18. Section 7 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
128 by adding the following paragraph:-

129 To the extent that the analysis and reporting activities pursuant to sections 10A or 10B  
130 increases the expenses of the center, the estimated increase in the center’s expenses shall be fully  
131 assessed to pharmaceutical manufacturing companies and pharmacy benefit managers in the  
132 same manner as the assessment pursuant to section 68 of chapter 118E.

133 SECTION 19. Said chapter 12C is hereby further amended by inserting after section 10  
134 the following 2 sections: -

135 Section 10A. (a) On or before March 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the center shall  
136 prepare a list of not more than ten outpatient prescription drugs that the center determines  
137 account for a significant share of state health care spending, considering the net cost of such  
138 drugs in the immediately preceding calendar year. The list shall include outpatient prescription  
139 drugs from different therapeutic classes and no more than three generic outpatient prescription  
140 drugs. The center shall not list any outpatient prescription drug pursuant to this subsection  
141 unless the wholesale acquisition cost of the prescription drug, less all rebates paid to the

142 commonwealth for such drug during the immediately preceding calendar year, increased by not  
143 less than 25 per cent during the immediately preceding calendar year.

144 (b) The pharmaceutical manufacturer of a prescription drug included on a list prepared by  
145 the center pursuant to subsection (a) shall provide to the center the following: (i) a written,  
146 narrative description, suitable for public release, of factors that caused the increase in the  
147 wholesale acquisition cost of the listed prescription drug; and (ii) aggregate, company-level  
148 research and development costs and such other capital expenditures that the center deems  
149 relevant for the most recent year for which final audited data is available.

150 (c) The quality and types of information and data that a pharmaceutical manufacturer  
151 submits to the center pursuant to this section shall be consistent with the quality and types of  
152 information and data that the pharmaceutical manufacturer includes in: (i) such pharmaceutical  
153 manufacturer's annual consolidated report on Securities and Exchange Commission Form 10-K  
154 or (ii) any other public disclosure.

155 (d) The center shall consult with pharmaceutical manufacturers to establish a single,  
156 standardized form for reporting information and data pursuant to this section. The form shall  
157 minimize the administrative burden and cost imposed on the center and pharmaceutical  
158 manufacturers.

159 (e) The center shall compile an annual report that includes all information that the center  
160 receives pursuant to subsection (b). The center shall post such report and the information  
161 described in this subsection on the center's website on or before October 1 of each year.

162 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this section, information and data submitted to the  
163 center pursuant to this section shall not be a public record and shall be exempt from disclosure

164 pursuant to clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 or section 10 of chapter 66. No such  
165 information and data shall be disclosed in a manner that may compromise the financial,  
166 competitive or proprietary nature of such information and data, or that would have enable a third  
167 party to identify an individual drug, therapeutic class of drugs or pharmaceutical manufacturer  
168 company the prices charged for any particular drug or therapeutic class of drugs, or the value of  
169 any rebate or discount provided for any particular drug or class of drugs.

170           Section 10B. The center shall promulgate regulations necessary to ensure the uniform  
171 analysis of information regarding pharmacy benefit managers that enables the center to analyze:  
172 (1) year-over-year wholesale acquisition cost changes; (2) year-over-year trends in formulary,  
173 maximum allowable costs list and cost-sharing design, including the establishment and  
174 management of specialty product lists; (3) aggregate information regarding discounts,  
175 utilizations limits, rebates, manufacturer administrative fees and other financial incentives or  
176 concessions related to pharmaceutical products or formulary programs; (4) information regarding  
177 the aggregate amount of payments made to pharmacies owned or controlled by the pharmacy  
178 benefit managers and the aggregate amount of payments made to pharmacies that are not owned  
179 or controlled by the pharmacy benefit managers; and (5) additional information deemed  
180 reasonable and necessary by the center as set forth in the center's regulations.

181           SECTION 20. Section 11 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
182 striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-

183           The center shall ensure the timely reporting of information required pursuant to sections  
184 8, 9, 10, 10A, and 10B.

185 SECTION 21. Said section 11 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
186 amended by striking out, in line 11, the figure “\$1,000” and inserting in place thereof the  
187 following figure:- \$5,000.

188 SECTION 22. Said section 11 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
189 amended by striking out, in line 16, the figure “\$50,000” and inserting in place thereof the  
190 following figure:- \$200,000.

191 SECTION 23. Section 12 of said chapter 12C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
192 striking out, in line 2, the words “9, and 10” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
193 9, 10, 10A and 10B.

194 SECTION 24. Chapter 94C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
195 section 21B the following section:-

196 Section 21C. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the  
197 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

198 “Cost sharing”, amounts owed by a consumer under the terms of the consumer’s health  
199 benefit plan as defined in section 1 of chapter 176O or as required by a pharmacy benefit  
200 manager as defined in subsection (a) of section 226 of chapter 175.

201 “Pharmacy retail price”, the amount an individual would pay for a prescription  
202 medication at a pharmacy if the individual purchased that prescription medication at that  
203 pharmacy without using a health benefit plan as defined in section 1 of chapter 176O or any  
204 other prescription medication benefit or discount.

205 “Registered pharmacist”, a pharmacist who holds a valid certificate of registration issued  
206 by the board of registration in pharmacy pursuant to section 24 of chapter 112.

207 (b) A pharmacy shall post a notice informing consumers that a consumer may request, at  
208 the point of sale, the current pharmacy retail price for each prescription medication the consumer  
209 intends to purchase. If the consumer’s cost-sharing amount for a prescription medication exceeds  
210 the current pharmacy retail price, the pharmacist, or an authorized individual at the direction of a  
211 pharmacist, shall notify the consumer that the pharmacy retail price is less than the patient’s cost-  
212 sharing amount. The pharmacist shall charge the consumer the applicable cost-sharing amount or  
213 the current pharmacy retail price for that prescription medication, as directed by the consumer.

214 A pharmacist shall not be subject to a penalty by the board of registration in pharmacy or  
215 a third party for failure to comply with this section.

216 (c) A contractual obligation shall not prohibit a pharmacist from complying with this  
217 section; provided however, that a pharmacist shall submit a claim to the consumer’s health  
218 benefit plan or its pharmacy benefit manager if the pharmacist has knowledge that the  
219 prescription medication is covered under the consumer’s health benefit plan.

220 (d) Failure to post notice pursuant to subsection (b) shall be an unfair or deceptive act of  
221 practice under chapter 93A.

222 Section 21D. (a) As used in this section, the term “pharmacy benefit manager” shall mean  
223 any person, business, or entity, however organized, that administers, either directly or through  
224 subsidiaries, pharmacy benefit services for prescription drugs and devices on behalf of health  
225 benefit plan sponsors, including, but not limited to, self-insured employers, insurance companies  
226 and labor unions; provided however, that “pharmacy benefit services” shall include, but not be

227 limited to, formulary administration; drug benefit design; pharmacy network contracting;  
228 pharmacy claims processing; mail and specialty drug pharmacy services; and cost containment,  
229 clinical, safety and adherence programs for pharmacy services. A health benefit plan that does  
230 not contract with a pharmacy benefit manager shall be considered a pharmacy benefit manager  
231 for the purposes of this section.

232 (b) A contract between a pharmacy benefit manager and a participating pharmacy or  
233 pharmacist or contracting agent shall not include any provision that prohibits, restricts, or limits a  
234 pharmacist or contracting agent or pharmacy's right to provide an insured with information on  
235 the amount of the insured's cost share for such insured's prescription drug and the clinical  
236 efficacy of a more affordable alternative drug if one is available. Neither a pharmacy nor a  
237 pharmacist shall be penalized by a pharmacy benefits manager for disclosing such information to  
238 an insured or for selling to an insured a more affordable alternative if one is available.

239 (c) A pharmacy benefits manager shall not charge a pharmacist or pharmacy a fee related  
240 to the adjudication of a claim, including, without limitation, a fee for: (i) the receipt and  
241 processing of a pharmacy claim; (ii) the development or management of claims processing  
242 services in a pharmacy benefits manager network; or (iii) participation in a pharmacy benefits  
243 manager network, unless such fee is set out in a contract between the pharmacy benefits manager  
244 and the pharmacist or contracting agent or pharmacy.

245 (d) A contract between a pharmacy benefit manager and a participating pharmacy or  
246 pharmacist or contracting agent shall not include any provision that prohibits, restricts, or limits  
247 disclosure of information to the division deemed necessary by the division to ensure a pharmacy

248 benefits manager's compliance with the requirements under this section or section 21C of chapter  
249 94C.