

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1703**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Claire D. Cronin***

*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 opioid drug manufacturer assessments.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>

<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1703**

By Ms. Cronin of Easton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1703) of Claire D. Cronin and others relative to opioid drug manufacturer assessments. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3508 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to opioid drug manufacturer assessments.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which are to establish forthwith for the treatment and prevention of addiction that results from opioid drug manufacturing, dispensing and distribution, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health.

*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. Chapter 94C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 24B the following section:-

3 Section 24C. (a) Every person that manufactures any opioid drug for distribution,  
4 dispensing or use in the commonwealth, shall pay an assessment equal to the product of (i) the  
5 ratio of the manufacturer’s annual aggregate distribution and dispensing of opioid drugs in the  
6 commonwealth and (ii) the total annual aggregate distribution and dispensing of opioid drugs in  
7 the commonwealth. The total assessment amount from all manufacturers shall not exceed

8 \$15,000,000. For the purposes of this section the term “opioid drug” means any drug having an  
9 addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability similar to morphine or being capable of  
10 conversion into a drug having such addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability.

11 (b) Annually, before October 1, the department shall establish each person’s or  
12 manufacturer’s liability to pay the assessment. Each person or manufacturer shall pay the  
13 assessment amount to the department for deposit in the Opioid Treatment and Addiction  
14 Prevention Fund established in this section. The department shall specify by regulation  
15 appropriate mechanisms, including use of the prescription monitoring program provided for in  
16 section 24A and the data provided for in section 24B, to provide for determination of the  
17 person’s or manufacturer’s liability for the assessment, including requirements for data to be  
18 submitted by such person or manufacturer.

19 (c) The department shall establish by regulation an appropriate mechanism for enforcing  
20 an assessment payor's liability to the fund if an assessment payor does not make a payment to the  
21 fund. Such enforcement mechanism may include assessment of interest on the unpaid liability at  
22 a rate not to exceed an annual percentage rate of 18 per cent and late fees or penalties at a rate  
23 not to exceed 5 per cent per month.

24 (d) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a fund to be  
25 known as the Opioid Treatment and Addiction Prevention Fund, in this section called the fund,  
26 which shall be administered by the department. Expenditures from the fund shall not be subject  
27 to appropriation. The purpose of the fund shall be to provide for: (i) prevention, treatment,  
28 management and research of opioid addiction and (ii) research to reduce barriers to effective pain  
29 management alternatives to opioid drugs.

30           (e) The fund shall consist of: (i) all assessments paid under this section; and (ii) all  
31 property and securities acquired by and through the use of monies belonging to the fund. All  
32 interest earned on any property, security, penalties or other amounts in the fund shall be  
33 deposited or retained in the fund.

34           (f) The department shall expend amounts in the fund consistent with the requirements of  
35 this section. The department shall expend not more than \$15,000,000 annually from the fund.

36           SECTION 2. The department of public health shall promulgate regulations to implement  
37 this act within 180 days of the effective date of this act.

38           SECTION 3. Section 1 shall take effect on June 30, 2020.