

HOUSE No. 3487

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Finn

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 prescription drug dispensing schedules.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>Gerard Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>

HOUSE No. 3487

By Mr. Finn of West Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3487) of Michael J. Finn and others relative to prescription medication synchronization healthcare coverage. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to prescription drug dispensing schedules.

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 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 17O, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

3 Section 17P. For the purposes of this section, “prescription medication synchronization”
4 shall mean dispensing all medication prescribed to a patient on the same schedule to ensure the
5 patient receives all prescription medications simultaneously.

6 Any coverage offered by the commission to an active or retired employee of the
7 commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage for
8 prescription medication synchronization at the election of the patient, prescribing provider, or
9 pharmacist, including, but not limited to providing coverage for dispensing a partial prescription;
10 provided, however, that a dispensing fee for a partial prescription provided to the patient in the
11 course of prescription medication synchronization shall not be prorated and shall be paid in full.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
13 section 10J, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

14 Section 10K. For the purposes of this section, “prescription medication synchronization”
15 shall mean dispensing all medication prescribed to a patient on the same schedule to ensure the
16 patient receives all prescription medications simultaneously.

17 The division shall provide coverage for prescription medication synchronization at the
18 election of the patient, prescribing provider, or pharmacist, including, but not limited to
19 providing coverage for dispensing a partial prescription; provided, however, that a dispensing fee
20 for a partial prescription provided to the patient in the course of prescription medication
21 synchronization shall not be prorated and shall be paid in full.

22 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
23 section 47II, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

24 Section 47JJ. For the purposes of this section, “prescription medication synchronization”
25 shall mean dispensing all medication prescribed to a patient on the same schedule to ensure the
26 patient receives all prescription medications simultaneously.

27 A policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued, delivered or
28 renewed within the commonwealth that provides medical expense coverage shall provide
29 coverage for prescription medication synchronization at the election of the patient, prescribing
30 provider, or pharmacist, including, but not limited to providing coverage for dispensing a partial
31 prescription; provided, however, that a dispensing fee for a partial prescription provided to the
32 patient in the course of prescription medication synchronization shall not be prorated and shall be
33 paid in full.

34 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
35 section 8KK, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

36 Section 8LL. For the purposes of this section, “prescription medication synchronization”
37 shall mean dispensing all medication prescribed to a patient on the same schedule to ensure the
38 patient receives all prescription medications simultaneously.

39 A contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group hospital
40 service plan that is delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide
41 coverage for prescription medication synchronization at the election of the patient, prescribing
42 provider, or pharmacist, including, but not limited to providing coverage for dispensing a partial
43 prescription; provided, however, that a dispensing fee for a partial prescription provided to the
44 patient in the course of prescription medication synchronization shall not be prorated and shall be
45 paid in full.

46 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
47 section 4KK, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

48 Section 4LL. For the purposes of this section, “prescription medication synchronization”
49 shall mean dispensing all medication prescribed to a patient on the same schedule to ensure the
50 patient receives all prescription medications simultaneously.

51 A subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement
52 delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for prescription
53 medication synchronization at the election of the patient, prescribing provider, or pharmacist,
54 including, but not limited to providing coverage for dispensing a partial prescription; provided,

55 however, that a dispensing fee for a partial prescription provided to the patient in the course of
56 prescription medication synchronization shall not be prorated and shall be paid in full.

57 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
58 section 4CC, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

59 Section 4DD. For the purposes of this section, “prescription medication
60 synchronization” shall mean dispensing all medication prescribed to a patient on the same
61 schedule to ensure the patient receives all prescription medications simultaneously.

62 An individual or group health maintenance contract shall provide coverage for
63 prescription medication synchronization at the election of the patient, prescribing provider, or
64 pharmacist, including, but not limited to providing coverage for dispensing a partial prescription;
65 provided, however, that a dispensing fee for a partial prescription provided to the patient in the
66 course of prescription medication synchronization shall not be prorated and shall be paid in full.