
To accompany the petition of the Association of Electrologists, Inc., by Mabel Long, president, and others, for legislation to establish a board of registration of electrologists and regulating the practice of the profession of electrolysis. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF ELECTROLOGISTS AND REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION OF ELECTROLYSIS.

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. There shall be created within the depart-
2 ment of civil service and registration, a board of regis-
3 tration of electrologists. Immediately following the en-
4 actment of this act, the governor shall appoint a board
5 consisting of three members, one for a term of one year,
6 one for a term of two years, and a third for a term of
7 three years. Thereafter, in the month of January of
8 each year, he shall so appoint a member of said board
9 to serve for a period of three years. One member of the
10 board shall be a physician, licensed to practice in this
11 commonwealth, the other two original appointments shall
12 be made from a recommended list of ten persons chosen
13 by the Association of Electrologists, Inc., and who are
14 practicing electrologists, citizens of the commonwealth,
15 and who have practiced electrolysis continuously in this
16 commonwealth for a period of at least five years. Except
17 for the physician member, all subsequent appointments
18 to the board shall be from lists to be furnished annually
19 by the Association of Electrologists, Inc. to the governor.
20 No member of the board shall be connected in any way
21 with a school of electrolysis or to be financially interested

22 in any manufacturing, wholesale or retail business per-
23 taining to electrolysis in any form whatsoever.

1 SECTION 2. For the purpose of this act, electrolysis is
2 defined as the method of removing hair from the human
3 body by the application of an electrical current to the
4 hair-papilla by means of a needle or needles to cause
5 decomposition, coagulation or dehydration of the hair-
6 papilla and thus permanently remove the hair.

1 SECTION 3. Every person who shall hereafter engage
2 in the practice of electrolysis in this state without being
3 duly licensed by said board shall be deemed to be prac-
4 ticing illegally, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined
5 not more than twenty dollars, and every day of the con-
6 tinuation of such illegal practice shall be deemed a
7 separate offence.

1 SECTION 4. Said board shall issue certificates to prac-
2 tice electrolysis, as herein defined, to such persons as
3 shall comply with the provisions of this act. Any person
4 who shall desire to engage in such practice shall submit in
5 writing in such form as shall be required by said board, an
6 application for a certificate to engage therein, which said
7 application shall be accompanied by a fee of twenty-five
8 dollars.

1 SECTION 5. Certificates to engage in such practice
2 shall be issued to such applicants as comply with the
3 following requirements: —

4 1. Are citizens of the United States or those who have
5 filed a written declaration of their intentions to become
6 citizens and are residents of this commonwealth for at
7 least two years.

8 2. Have attained the age of twenty-one years.

9 3. Have met the educational and other requirements
10 to be prescribed by said board.

11 4. Shall be of good moral character and free of in-
12 fections.

1 SECTION 6. The practice of electrolysis shall be en-
2 gaged in only in a fixed place or establishment, which
3 place or establishment shall be provided with such in-
4 struments, implements and equipment, and subject to
5 such sanitary regulations and inspection, as said board
6 may prescribe.

7 Nothing in the preceding paragraph, or in any statute,
8 ordinance, provision of law, rule or regulation shall be
9 construed to prohibit the practice of electrolysis and the
10 maintenance of an electrolysis office, in his or her own
11 home or residence; provided the operator complies with
12 the conditions outlined above.

13 Any person who has been actively engaged in such
14 practice in this state for one year prior to the enactment
15 of this act shall be entitled to a certificate to engage in
16 such practice without examination, upon the payment of
17 a fee of twenty-five dollars.

1 SECTION 7. Examination of applicants for certificates
2 shall be held at least once a year in the city of Boston, and
3 may be held elsewhere in the discretion of the board. The
4 board shall have the power to prepare, adopt and, from
5 time to time, change, alter and amend rules and regula-
6 tions for the conducting of such examinations, and may
7 fix the fee for re-examination. The board shall issue to
8 each person successfully passing the examination, where
9 an examination is required, and who otherwise satisfied
10 said board of his or her qualifications, a certificate, signed
11 by the chairman of said board, entitling him or her to
12 practice said business in this state for the annual period
13 stated in said certificate, or until said certificate shall be
14 revoked or suspended, as provided herein. All certifi-
15 cates shall expire one year from the issuance date, unless
16 sooner suspended or revoked, at an annual fee of ten
17 dollars.

1 SECTION 8. Every certificate issued hereunder shall
2 specify the name of the person to whom it was issued and
3 shall be displayed in the place of business or employment.
4 Said board shall have the power to revoke or suspend any

5 certificate or registration issued hereunder for gross in-
6 competency, unprofessional conduct or any cause deemed
7 sufficient in the opinion of the majority of said board;
8 provided, that, before any certificate shall be suspended
9 or revoked, the holder shall be notified in writing of the
10 charge or charges preferred against him or her, and shall
11 have a reasonable time to prepare his or her defence, and
12 shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to be
13 heard and to present his or her defence. Any person
14 whose certificate shall be suspended or revoked, may
15 apply to have same reissued and the same shall be re-
16 issued to him or her upon a satisfactory showing that the
17 cause for dissatisfaction has ceased. Said board shall
18 have the power, by its chairman, to summon any person
19 to appear as a witness and to testify at any hearing of
20 said board, to examine witnesses, administer oaths and
21 punish for contempt any person refusing to appear or
22 testify.

1 SECTION 9. Any person aggrieved by any decision or
2 ruling of said board, may within thirty days, exclusive
3 of Sundays and holidays, after receiving in writing notice
4 of such decision or ruling, appeal therefrom to the su-
5 perior court for the county in which the person resides,
6 by filing in the office of the clerk of said court his or her
7 reasons for appeal, and within seven days thereafter
8 filing a copy thereof with the chairman of said board, and
9 said court shall as promptly as may be, and after such
10 notice as the court may direct, hear and determine said
11 appeal. The taking of such appeal shall vacate for all
12 purposes such findings, decision or order pending the
13 determination of such appeal.

1 SECTION 10. Any certificates issued under the pro-
2 visions of this chapter shall be renewed annually by the
3 holders thereof at an annual renewal fee of ten dollars.

1 SECTION 11. There shall be paid annually by the
2 commonwealth to the secretary of the board a salary of
3 three hundred dollars, and his necessary expenses in-

4 curred in the discharge of his official duties, and to each
5 of the other members thereof, a salary of one hundred
6 and fifty dollars, and his necessary expenses so incurred;
7 provided, that the salary and expenses of the members
8 of the board, and the expenses of the board, shall not
9 be in excess of the receipts for registration and from
10 other sources received by the state treasurer from the
11 board.

1 SECTION 12. The board shall, upon the request of any
2 school teaching electrolysis and hair epilation, in this
3 commonwealth, inspect such school and notify the gov-
4 erning body in writing if said school is approved by the
5 board, or, if not, what steps said school must take in
6 order to gain the approval of the board. The board and
7 the commissioner of education, acting in an advisory
8 capacity, shall forthwith establish standards to be met
9 by said electrolysis and hair epilation school, and when
10 in the opinion of the board, such standards have been
11 met by said school, a certificate of approval shall be
12 awarded to it; provided, that if at any such time, an
13 approved school has, in the opinion of the board, lowered
14 its standing below that established by the board, such
15 certificate, after notice and hearing, may be revoked by
16 the board and said commissioner. Any applicant ag-
17 grieved by the refusal of the board to approve an elec-
18 trolysis and hair epilation school, under this section, shall
19 be entitled to have the reasonableness of such refusal re-
20 viewed by a justice of the superior court whose decision
21 shall be final.

1 SECTION 13. Any person licensed to practice elec-
2 trolysis in any other state or states, who is, or in good
3 faith intends to become, a resident of this state, where
4 the requirements are the equivalent of those in this state,
5 and who shall otherwise meet the requirements of this
6 act, shall be entitled to take said examination, and if he
7 or she shall pass same, shall, upon the payment of a fee
8 of twenty-five dollars, be entitled to be licensed under the
9 provisions of this act.

1 SECTION 14. No person or establishment, licensed
2 under the provisions of this act, shall include in any ad-
3 vertising, prices, fees, charges, reduced fees for perform-
4 ing or rendering any service, or publish, issue or make
5 any representation, false, fraudulent or misleading state-
6 ments through any means of the press, circulation of
7 advertising matter, radio, television, display signs or
8 otherwise.

1 SECTION 15. The provisions of this act shall not
2 apply to physicians licensed to practice in this state.

1 SECTION 16. (a) No person, unless he shall hold a
2 license to practice medicine and surgery or a license to
3 practice dentistry, shall use the Roentgen ray or the
4 X-ray or radium for therapeutic or cosmetic treatment
5 of another person unless such person shall use the same
6 under the prescription, direction or supervision of a li-
7 censed physician, surgeon or dentist.

8 (b) Any person who shall violate any provision of
9 subsection (a) shall be fined not less than one hundred
10 dollars for the first offence, and not less than three
11 hundred for each subsequent offence.

12 (c) The provisions of this section shall not be con-
13 strued to prohibit the use of Roentgen ray or the X-ray
14 for diagnostic purposes.

1 SECTION 17. This act shall take effect upon its pas-
2 sage, and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith
3 are hereby repealed.

