
By Mr. Pellegrini, a petition of Philibert L. Pellegrini for legislation to establish the board of certification of health officers. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH OFFICERS.

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 13 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 66, under the caption
3 BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH OFFICERS, the
4 following three sections:—

5 *Section 67.* There shall be a board of certification of health
6 officers, in this section and sections sixty-eight and sixty-nine
7 called the board, consisting of seven members to be appointed
8 by the governor, one of whom shall be an educator in the field
9 of public health administration, one of whom shall be a mem-
10 ber of the department of public health in an administrative
11 capacity, four of whom shall be registered local health officers
12 with at least five years' experience in public health administra-
13 tion, and who shall provide broad geographical representation
14 to the board, one of whom shall be a member of a non-govern-
15 mental voluntary health agency with at least five years of pub-
16 lic health administrative experience. Each member shall serve
17 for a term of four years.

18 *Section 68.* The board shall meet annually in the month of
19 December at such time and place as it shall determine and it
20 shall organize and choose from its own members a chair-
21 man, a vice chairman and a secretary who shall hold their
22 respective offices until the next annual meeting. The board
23 shall hold such other meetings at such times and places as
24 it shall determine. It may adopt such rules and regulations

25 not inconsistent with law as it may deem necessary in the
26 performance of its duties.

27 *Section 69.* Each member of the board other than the em-
28 ployee of the department of public health shall receive from
29 the commonwealth ten dollars for each day or portion thereof
30 spent in attending board meetings and each member shall be
31 paid the necessary traveling expenses actually incurred by him
32 in attending said meetings, provided that such compensation
33 and expenses shall not in one year exceed the receipts from
34 the registrations and licenses paid to the commonwealth by
35 the board. The board may appoint such employees as may be
36 necessary to carry out its duties and may expend therefor such
37 sums as may be appropriated.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 87VVV, under caption
3 REGISTRATION OF CERTIFICATE HEALTH OFFICERS,
4 the following four sections: —

5 *Section 87WWW.* For the purposes of this section and sec-
6 tions eighty-seven XXX to eighty-seven ZZZ, inclusive, the
7 following words shall unless the context requires otherwise,
8 have the following meanings: —

9 “Board”, the board of certification of health officers estab-
10 lished by section sixty-seven of chapter thirteen.

11 “Health officer”, a person with a broad basic education and
12 experience in the physical and biological and social sciences
13 supplemented by specialization in the field of health adminis-
14 tration and who is qualified to carry out public health admin-
15 istrative duties and enforce the laws in the field of public
16 health.

17 *Section 87XXX.* A person who desires to be certified as a
18 health officer shall file with said board of application upon a
19 form to be prescribed and furnished by the board. He shall
20 include in such application under oath his qualifications as a
21 health officer. Said application shall be accompanied by a
22 registration fee of twenty-five dollars.

23 If the board deems the educational qualifications of the ap-
24 plicant are satisfactory and if he passes an examination both

25 written and oral satisfactory to the board, the board shall
26 issue him a certificate. Said certification shall expire at the
27 end of the calendar year and may be renewed on or before
28 January fifteenth of the following year. The fee for renewal
29 of certification shall be five dollars, and shall be acknowledged
30 by sending the person certified a notice of renewal.

31 *Section 87YYY.* The board may by rule establish the mini-
32 mum educational and experience qualifications which the ap-
33 plicants must possess before being allowed to take the examina-
34 tion for certification as health officers and may in like manner
35 provide for the issuance of temporary certification pending an
36 examination to applicants who appear to be qualified, and may
37 in like manner provide for the issuance of certification without
38 examination to persons holding certification or licenses as
39 health officers under the laws of another state.

40 *Section 87ZZZ.* Any person to whom a certificate or certifi-
41 cation as a health officer has been issued shall have the right
42 to use after his name the title "Certified Health Officer" or the
43 letters "C.H.O." No other person shall assume such title or
44 use such letters or any other words, letters, or writing to
45 indicate that he is a certified health officer. No employee of a
46 local board of health shall be required to be a certified health
47 officer as a condition precedent to employment.

1 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of section eighty-
2 seven YYY of chapter one hundred and twelve of the General
3 Laws, inserted by section two of this act, any person who
4 submits satisfactory proof to the board of certification of health
5 officers that he is presently serving as a health officer, agent,
6 director, commissioner of public health, or other equivalent in
7 a city, town or health district of the commonwealth and that
8 he has served continuous for a period of two years or that
9 he has served for five years as a health officer as defined in
10 section eighty-seven WWW of chapter one hundred and twelve
11 of the General Laws, shall be issued a certificate of certifica-
12 tion as a health officer without being required to take any
13 written or oral examination; provided, that he makes appli-
14 cation for such certification within one year after the effective

15 date of this act and accompanies such application with the
16 registration fee of twenty-five dollars.

1 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of section sixty-
2 seven of chapter thirteen of the General Laws, inserted by sec-
3 tion one of this act, the initial members appointed to the board
4 of certification as health officers need not be registered health
5 officers but shall be health officers as said term is defined in
6 section eighty-seven WWW of chapter one hundred and twelve
7 of the General Laws, inserted by section two of this act, and
8 shall have at least five years' experience in the field of public
9 health administration. Of the initial seven members of the
10 board of certification of health officers established by said
11 section sixty-seven of said chapter thirteen two shall be ap-
12 pointed for terms of four years, two for terms of three years,
13 two for terms of two years, and one for a term of one year.
14 Upon the expiration of their respective terms their successors
15 shall be appointed as provided in said section seventy-seven.