

By Mr. Ohanian of Watertown, petition of Paul Murray and Charles Ohanian for legislation to establish a board of certification of health officers. Public Health.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT ESTABLISHING A 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 Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-  
2 serting after section 27C the following 7 sections under the  
3 caption: BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH OFFICERS:—

4 *Section 27D.* There shall be a board of certification of  
5 health officers hereafter in this section and in sections twenty-  
6 seven E to twenty-seven J referred to as the board, consisting of  
7 seven members to be appointed by the governor of the common-  
8 wealth with the advice and consent of the governor's council of  
9 whom one shall be an educator in the field of public health ad-  
10 ministration, one of whom shall be a member of the Massachu-  
11 setts department of public health in an administrative capacity,  
12 this member shall be the only employee of the Massachusetts  
13 department of public health, four of whom shall be registered  
14 local health officers with at least five years' experience in  
15 public health administration, and who shall provide broad  
16 geographical representation to the board, and one of whom  
17 shall be a member of a non-governmental voluntary health  
18 agency with at least five years of public health administrative  
19 experience. Each member shall serve for a term of four years.

20 *Section 27E.* The board shall meet annually in the month  
21 of December at such time and place as it shall determine and  
22 it shall organize and choose from its own members a chairman,  
23 a vice chairman and a secretary who shall hold their respec-  
24 tive offices until the next annual meeting. The board shall

25 hold such other meetings at such times and places as it shall  
26 determine. It may adopt such rules and regulations not in-  
27 consistent with law as it may deem necessary in the perform-  
28 ance of its duties.

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

40 *Section 27G.* The following words as used in sections  
41 twenty-seven D through twenty-seven J inclusive shall, unless  
42 the context requires otherwise, have the following meanings:  
43 "board", the board of certification of health officers estab-  
44 lished under section twenty-seven E of chapter one hundred  
45 and eleven; "health officer", a person with a broad basic edu-  
46 cation and experience in the physical and biological and social  
47 sciences supplemented by specialization in the field of health  
48 administration and who is qualified to carry out public health  
49 administrative duties and enforce the laws in the field of  
50 public health.

51 *Section 27H.* A person who desires to be certified as a  
52 health officer shall file with said board an application upon a  
53 form to be prescribed and furnished by the board. He shall in-  
54 clude in such application under oath his qualifications as a  
55 health officer; said application shall be accompanied by a  
56 registration fee of twenty-five dollars.

57 If the board deems the educational qualifications of ap-  
58 plicant are satisfactory and if he passes an examination both  
59 written and oral satisfactory to the board, the board shall  
60 issue him a certificate. Said certification shall expire at the  
61 end of the calendar year and may be renewed on or before  
62 January fifteenth of the following year. The fee for renewal  
63 of certification shall be five dollars, and shall be acknowledged  
64 by sending the person certified a notice of renewal.

65 *Section 27I.* The board may by rule establish the minimum  
66 educational and experience qualifications which the ap-  
67 plicants must possess before being allowed to take the exam-  
68 ination for certification as health officers and may in like  
69 manner provide for the issuance of temporary certification  
70 pending an examination to applicants who appear to be  
71 qualified, and may in like manner provide for the issuance of  
72 certification without examination to persons holding certifica-  
73 tion or licenses as health officers under the laws of another  
74 state.

75 Any person to whom a certificate or certification as a health  
76 officer has been issued shall have the right to use after his  
77 name the title "Certified Health Officer or the letters C.H.O."  
78 No other person shall assume such title or use such letters  
79 or any other words, letters, or writing to indicate that he is  
80 a certified health officer. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
81 section twenty-seven I of chapter one hundred and eleven of  
82 the General Laws inserted by section five of this act, any per-  
83 son who submits satisfactory proof to the board of certifica-  
84 tion of health officers that he is presently serving as a health  
85 officer, agent, director, commissioner of public health, or other  
86 equivalent in a city, town or health district of the common-  
87 wealth and that he has served continuous for a period of two  
88 years or that he has served for five years as a health officer as  
89 defined in section twenty-seven G, shall be issued a certificate  
90 of certification as a health officer without being required to  
91 take any written or oral examination; provided, that he makes  
92 application for such certification within one year after the  
93 effective date of this act and accompanies such application  
94 with the registration fee of twenty-five dollars.

95 Notwithstanding the provisions of section twenty-seven I,  
96 chapter one hundred and eleven of the General Laws inserted  
97 by section five of this act, the initial members appointed to  
98 the board of certification as health officers need not be  
99 registered health officers but shall be practicing health officers  
100 as said term is defined in section twenty-seven H, chapter one  
101 hundred and eleven of the General Laws, inserted by section  
102 four of this act and shall have at least five years' experience  
103 in the field of public health administration. Of the initial  
104 seven members of the board of certification of health officers

105 established by section twenty-seven D of chapter one hundred  
106 and eleven of the General Laws inserted by section one of this  
107 act, the commissioner of public health with the advice and  
108 consent of the public health council shall forthwith appoint  
109 two for the term of four years, two for the term of three years,  
110 two for the term of two years and one for the term of one year.  
111 Upon the expiration of their respective terms their successors  
112 shall be appointed as provided in section twenty-seven D of  
113 said chapter one hundred and eleven.

114 *Section 27J.* Nothing in this act shall be construed as com-  
115 pelling a city or town to employ a certified health officer.