

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2569

By Mr. Guzzi of Newton, petition of Paul H. Guzzi for legislation to provide for adequate medical care for the elderly in an emergency through the use of trained paraprofessionals. Social Welfare.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY IN AN EMERGENCY THROUGH THE USE OF TRAINED PARAPROFESSIONALS.

*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. Section 7 of chapter 112 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by inserting in the first sentence after the  
3 word "emergency" the following: — to prohibit the providing  
4 of emergency medical services for the elderly by persons cer-  
5 tified as provided in section seven A,.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 112 is hereby further amended by  
2 inserting after section 7 the following section: —

3 *Section 7A.* The secretary of elder affairs, after consultation  
4 with the commissioner of public health, shall establish a train-  
5 ing program for paraprofessional medical assistants for the  
6 elderly which shall train men and women to administer ad-  
7 equate medical care to the elderly in an emergency. The sec-  
8 retary shall review all programs operated by public or private  
9 agencies and shall, after consultation with the commissioner of  
10 public health, approve such programs as shall in his opinion be  
11 suitable for the training of paraprofessional medical assistants  
12 for the elderly.

13 A person who is certified by the secretary of elder affairs to  
14 have satisfactorily completed a training program established or

15 approved under the provisions of this section is authorized to  
16 provide emergency medical care under the following condi-  
17 tions: (1) the emergency medical care shall be provided only in  
18 a city, town or geographical area which has been determined  
19 by the secretary of elder affairs, in accordance with rules and  
20 regulations promulgated by him, to be lacking in the ready  
21 availability of licensed physicians to provide treatment for  
22 elderly persons in an emergency; (2) an emergency shall exist  
23 with respect to a person in a city, town or geographical area  
24 determined as provided in subparagraph one such that death or  
25 serious physical or mental harm is imminent unless medical  
26 care is rendered; (3) medical care shall be limited to such  
27 diagnosis, transportation and treatment as is necessary to pre-  
28 serve life or to prevent serious injury, including but not limited  
29 to the following procedures: (a) taking pulses; (b) taking blood  
30 pressures; (c) providing transportation to a physician's office or  
31 to a hospital or clinic; (d) administering oxygen; (e) administer-  
32 ing non-prescription drugs; and (f) administering such prescrip-  
33 tion drugs as may be authorized by regulations issued by the  
34 secretary of elder affairs.