

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
RECOMMENDING LEGISLATION RELATIVE
TO THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

March 5, 1975.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02133

March 3, 1975.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Today I submit to your Honorable Bodies the attached legislation, entitled "An Act Relative to the Qualifications of the Commissioner of Public Health."

This legislation will broaden the qualifications of the Commissioner of Public Health, so that the Commonwealth will be able to find the best available man or woman for this sensitive position. The legislation eliminates the requirement that the Commissioner be a physician, and allows in its place training and experience in business, government, health administration, or related fields. It inserts into the law a requirement of administrative experience — a minimum of five years, of which at least two years must have been in the organization, management or delivery of human services. The current law does not require the commissioner-designate to have had any previous administrative experience.

At a time when state government is called upon to perform more far-reaching and complex tasks than ever before, we cannot afford to be hampered by rigid and archaic qualification standards for top-level policy-making positions. This legislation strikes a fair balance between the flexibility necessary for high quality appointments and the basic job-related qualifications traditionally contained in our statutes.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

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 2 of Chapter 17 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in
3 place thereof the following sentences:

4 At the time of appointment, the commissioner shall be a
5 graduate of an accredited four-year college or university and
6 shall have had: (a) not less than 10 years of administrative
7 experience; or (b) not less than eight years of administrative
8 experience of which at least three years shall have been in the
9 organization, management or delivery of human services; or
10 (c) a doctorate or other degree beyond the level of bac-
11 calaureate in the field of business, economics, education, gov-
12 ernment, law, medicine, psychology, public administration,
13 public health, public policy, social work, urban planning, or a
14 field substantially related to one or more of the foregoing, and
15 not less than five years of administrative experience of which
16 at least two years shall have been in the organization, man-
17 agement or delivery of human services. For the purposes of
18 this section administrative experience shall mean service in
19 a management or supervisory capacity.