

# HOUSE . . . . No. 604

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By Mr. Bentley of Swampscott (by request), petition of Annie D. Brown for legislation to provide for regulating further the practice of physicians and surgeons. Public Health.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Eight.

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE  
OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS IN CERTAIN CASES.

*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 one hundred and twelve of the  
2 General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 section twelve A, as appearing in the Tercentenary  
4 Edition thereof, the following two new sections:—  
5 *Section 12B.* After the removal of any limb or  
6 organ (whether it be a case where signed or verbal  
7 permission has been given by patient or an accident  
8 case in which patient is unconscious and no relative or  
9 guardian can be reached) the operating surgeon shall  
10 deliver a written statement of explanation to the pa-  
11 tient or patient's husband or wife, or relatives or  
12 guardian telling the nature of the operation which he  
13 has performed upon the patient and giving his rea-  
14 sons for considering such an operation necessary.

15 *Section 12C.* A physician violating any provision  
16 of section twelve B shall be punished by a fine of not  
17 less than fifty or more than five hundred dollars,  
18 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or  
19 by both such fine and such imprisonment.

1 SECTION 2. This act does not apply in the case of  
2 a public catastrophe where sudden drastic action is  
3 needed to save human lives.