

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 564.

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Bill accompanying the petition of the president and legislative committee of the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association for legislation relative to the registration of nurses. Public Health. January 29.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Four.

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### AN ACT

To regulate the Practice of Professional Nursing  
of the Sick.

*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. The governor, with the advice  
2 and consent of the council, shall appoint a board  
3 of registration in nursing. Said board shall con-  
4 sist of five members, residents in this Common-  
5 wealth, who shall be appointed from a list of ten  
6 persons, submitted by the Massachusetts State  
7 Nurses' Association, and who shall hold diplomas  
8 from training schools for nurses giving at least a

9 two years' course in a general hospital, and who  
10 shall have had eight years' additional experience  
11 in the practice of their profession. Said board  
12 shall be appointed as follows: one member for  
13 one year, one for two years, one for three  
14 years, one for four years and one for five years,  
15 from the first day of October, nineteen hundred  
16 and four, and until their respective successors are  
17 appointed; and thereafter the governor, with the  
18 advice and consent of the council, shall appoint  
19 before the first day of October in each year one  
20 person qualified as aforesaid to hold office for  
21 five years, from the first day of October next  
22 ensuing. Vacancies in said board shall be filled  
23 in accordance with the provisions of this act for  
24 the appointment of the original board, and a per-  
25 son appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office  
26 during the unexpired term of the member whose  
27 place he or she fills. Any member of said board  
28 may be removed from office for cause by the  
29 governor with the advice and consent of the  
30 executive council.

1 SECTION 2. The members of said board shall  
2 meet on the second Tuesday of October, nineteen  
3 hundred and four, and annually thereafter, at such  
4 hour and place as they may determine, and shall  
5 immediately proceed to organize by electing a  
6 chairman and secretary who shall hold their re-  
7 spective offices for the term of one year. The  
8 secretary shall give to the treasurer and receiver  
9 general of the Commonwealth a bond with suffi-

10 cient sureties, to be approved by the governor and  
11 council, for the faithful discharge of the duties of  
12 his or her office. The said board shall hold four  
13 regular meetings in each year, one on the second  
14 Tuesday of January, one on the second Tuesday  
15 of April, one on the second Tuesday of July and  
16 one on the second Tuesday of October, and such  
17 additional meetings at such times and places as  
18 it may determine.

1 SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of said board  
2 immediately upon its organization to notify all  
3 persons practising nursing in this Commonwealth  
4 of the times and places of the examination for  
5 registration by publication in one or more news-  
6 papers in each county; and every such person  
7 who shall by affidavit or otherwise show to the  
8 satisfaction of the board that he or she was en-  
9 gaged in the practice of nursing of the sick for  
10 a period of three years next prior to the passage  
11 hereof, and that he or she is a duly qualified  
12 nurse, shall upon the payment of a fee of five  
13 dollars be entitled to registration, with the use of  
14 the title Registered Nurse, signified by R. N.  
15 Said board shall issue to him or her a certificate  
16 signed by the members of the board.

1 SECTION 4. Any person not entitled to regis-  
2 tration as aforesaid shall be entitled to examina-  
3 tion upon making application. Applications for  
4 registration shall be made upon blanks to be fur-  
5 nished by the board, and shall be signed and

6 sworn to by applicants. Each applicant for regis-  
7 tration shall furnish satisfactory proof that he or  
8 she is twenty-one years of age or over, and of  
9 good moral character, and, if upon examination  
10 shall be found qualified by the board, shall by the  
11 payment of a fee of five dollars be registered as a  
12 professional nurse and shall receive a certificate  
13 thereof as provided in section three, and shall be  
14 granted the use of the title of registered nurse.  
15 An applicant who fails to pass an examination  
16 satisfactory to the board, and is therefore refused  
17 registration, shall be entitled within one year after  
18 such refusal to a re-examination at a meeting of  
19 the board called for the examination of applicants,  
20 without the payment of an additional fee. Said  
21 board may by unanimous vote revoke any certifi-  
22 cate issued by it, and cancel the registration of  
23 any professional nurse who has been guilty of any  
24 felony, or of any crime or misdemeanor in the  
25 practice of his or her profession. All fees re-  
26 ceived by the board shall once in each month be  
27 paid by its secretary into the treasury of the  
28 Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 5. Each member of the board shall  
2 receive eight dollars for every day actually spent  
3 in the performance of his or her duties and the  
4 necessary travelling expenses actually expended  
5 in attending the meetings of the board, not ex-  
6 ceeding three cents a mile each way. Such com-  
7 pensation and the incidental and travelling  
8 expenses shall be approved by the board, and

9 paid by the Commonwealth only from the fees  
10 paid over by the board.

1 SECTION 6. The board shall investigate all  
2 complaints of the violations of the provisions of  
3 this act and report the same to the proper prose-  
4 cuting officers.

1 SECTION 7. Examinations shall be in part in  
2 writing in the English language, and in part in  
3 practical work, and shall include the following  
4 subjects: physiology, anatomy, materia medica,  
5 obstetrics, urinalysis, children's diseases, sanita-  
6 tion, physics, hygiene, dietetics, and principles  
7 and methods of nursing.

1 SECTION 8. The board shall keep a record of  
2 the names of all persons registered hereunder, and  
3 of all money received and disbursed by it, and a  
4 duplicate thereof shall be open to inspection in the  
5 office of the secretary of the Commonwealth.  
6 Said board shall annually on or before the first  
7 day of January make a report to the governor of  
8 the conditions of professional nursing in this Com-  
9 monwealth, of all its official acts during the pre-  
10 ceding year and of its receipts and disbursements.

1 SECTION 9. The provisions of this act shall  
2 not be held to apply to gratuitous nursing of the  
3 sick by friends or members of the family or to any  
4 person nursing the sick, for hire, who does not  
5 assume to be a registered nurse.

1 SECTION 10. Whoever, not being lawfully  
2 authorized to practise as a registered nurse within  
3 this Commonwealth, does practise or does at-  
4 tempt to practise as a registered nurse shall, for  
5 each offence, be punished by a fine of not less  
6 than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dol-  
7 lars, or by imprisonment for three months, or by  
8 both such fine and imprisonment. Whoever be-  
9 comes registered or attempts to become regis-  
10 tered, or whoever practises or attempts to practise  
11 as a registered nurse under a false or assumed  
12 name shall, for each offence, be punished by a fine  
13 of not less than one hundred nor more than five  
14 hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for three  
15 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

1 SECTION 11. The examining board shall extend  
2 equal recognition to the registered nurses of  
3 other states, who shall comply with the aforesaid  
4 conditions.

1 SECTION 12. This act shall take effect thirty  
2 days after its passage.