

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1036.

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Mr. Walker of Brookline gives notice that he will move to substitute this bill for the report of the Senate committee on Public Health, leave to withdraw.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five.

### 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 resident in this Common-  
5 wealth, who shall hold diplomas from training  
6 schools for nurses giving at least a two years'  
7 course in the theory and practice of nursing in a  
8 hospital, or who under the provision of this act  
9 shall have become a registered nurse, and who

10 shall have had eight years' additional experience  
11 in nursing the sick, and is not officially connected  
12 with any training school for nurses. Said board  
13 shall be appointed as follows: one member for  
14 one year, one for two years, one for three years,  
15 one for four years, and one for five years from  
16 the first day of October, nineteen hundred and  
17 five, and until their respective successors are  
18 appointed; and thereafter the governor, with the  
19 advice and consent of the council, shall, before  
20 the first day of October in each year, appoint in  
21 the manner aforesaid one person qualified as  
22 aforesaid to hold office for five years from the  
23 first day of October next ensuing. Vacancies in  
24 said board shall be filled in accordance with the  
25 provisions of this act for the appointment of the  
26 original board, and a person appointed to fill a  
27 vacancy shall hold office during the unexpired  
28 term of the member whose place he or she fills.  
29 Any member of said board may be removed  
30 from office for cause by the governor, with the  
31 advice and consent of the council.

1 SECTION 2. The members of said board shall  
2 meet on the second Tuesday of October, nineteen  
3 hundred and five, 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 suf-

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

1 SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of said board,  
2 immediately upon its organization, to notify all  
3 persons engaged in the practice of nursing the  
4 sick in this Commonwealth of the times, places  
5 and subjects of the examinations for registration  
6 by publication in one or more newspapers in each  
7 county. Applications for registration shall be  
8 made upon blanks to be furnished by the board,  
9 and shall be signed and sworn to by the applicants.  
10 Each applicant for registration who shall furnish  
11 satisfactory proof that he or she is of good moral  
12 character, shall, upon payment of a fee of two  
13 dollars, be examined by the said board, provided  
14 said applicant for registration shall satisfy said  
15 board by presentation of diploma or certificate  
16 that he or she is a graduate of a training school  
17 for nurses giving at least a two years' course in  
18 the theory and practice of nursing in a hospital,  
19 or shall present a certificate from a general hospi-  
20 tal giving evidence of a two years' course of train-  
21 ing in the theory and practice of nursing, or  
22 certificates from one or more hospitals, general

23 or special, giving evidence of having pursued at  
24 least a two years' course of training in the theory  
25 and practice of nursing in a hospital. If upon  
26 such examination the applicant shall be found  
27 qualified, he or she shall be registered as a profes-  
28 sional nurse, with a right to use the title Regis-  
29 tered Nurse, and shall receive a certificate thereof  
30 from the board, signed by the chairman and secre-  
31 tary. An applicant who fails to pass an examina-  
32 tion satisfactory to the board and is therefore  
33 refused registration shall be entitled, within one  
34 year after such refusal, to a re-examination at a  
35 meeting of the board called for the examination  
36 of applicants, without the payment of an addi-  
37 tional fee. Said board, after hearing, may by  
38 unanimous vote revoke any certificate issued by  
39 it, and cancel the registration of any professional  
40 nurse who has been guilty of any felony or of  
41 any crime or misdemeanor in the practice of his  
42 or her profession. All fees received by the board  
43 shall once in each month be paid by its secretary  
44 into the treasury of the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 4. Examinations shall be in part in  
2 writing in the English language and in part in  
3 practical work, and shall include the principles  
4 and methods of nursing. Due credit shall be  
5 given for examinations in special branches.

1 SECTION 5. Every resident of this Common-  
2 wealth who shall make application for registra-  
3 tion within two years from the passage of this

4 act, and who shall, by affidavit or otherwise,  
5 show to the satisfaction of the board that he or  
6 she is a graduate of a training school for nurses  
7 which at the passage of this act gives at least a  
8 two years' course in the theory and practice of  
9 nursing, or that he or she was at the passage of  
10 this act a student in such a training school for  
11 nurses and thereafter graduated therefrom, or  
12 that he or she had served two years as a pupil  
13 nurse or as an attendant in a hospital and was  
14 at the time of the passage of this act in actual  
15 practice as a nurse, and that he or she is other-  
16 wise duly qualified, shall be registered without  
17 examination upon payment of a fee of two dollars.

1 SECTION 6. The board shall have power to  
2 register in like manner, without examination, any  
3 person who has been registered as a professional  
4 nurse in another state under laws which in the  
5 opinion of the board maintain a standard substan-  
6 tially similar to that of this act.

1 SECTION 7. Each member of the board shall  
2 receive five 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  
7 compensation and the incidental and travelling  
8 expenses shall be approved by the board and paid  
9 by the Commonwealth only from the fees paid  
10 over by the board.

1 SECTION 8. The board shall investigate all  
2 complaints of the violations of the provisions of  
3 this act, and report the same to the proper pro-  
4 ceeding officers.

1 SECTION 9. The board shall keep a record of  
2 the names of all persons registered hereunder,  
3 and of all money received and disbursed by it,  
4 and a duplicate thereof shall be open to inspection  
5 in the 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  
8 of the condition of professional nursing in this  
9 Commonwealth, of all its official acts during the  
10 preceding year, and of its receipts and disburse-  
11 ments.

1 SECTION 10. Whoever, not being lawfully au-  
2 thorized to practise as a registered nurse within  
3 this Commonwealth, does practise or does attempt  
4 to practise as a registered nurse, or does use the  
5 abbreviation R. N., or any other words, letters or  
6 figures to indicate that the person using the same  
7 is such a registered nurse, shall for each offence  
8 be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars  
9 nor more than one hundred dollars, or by impris-  
10 onment for three months, or by both such fine  
11 and imprisonment. Whoever becomes registered  
12 or attempts to become registered, or whoever  
13 practises or attempts to practise as a registered  
14 nurse under a false or assumed name, shall for  
15 each offence be punished by a fine of not less than

16 one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars,  
17 or by imprisonment for three months, or by both  
18 such fine and imprisonment.

1 SECTION 11. 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  
4 the acts of any person nursing the sick for hire  
5 who does not assume to be a registered nurse.

1 SECTION 12. For the purpose of the appoint-  
2 ment of said board and of the registration of per-  
3 sons by it hereunder, this act shall take effect  
4 upon its passage, and shall take full effect on the  
5 first day of November in the year nineteen  
6 hundred and five.

