

Bill accompanying the petition of Louis E. Pattison for legislation to regulate the practice of professional nursing of the sick. Public Health. January 17.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eight.

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 and con-
2 sent of the council, shall appoint a board of registration
3 in nursing. Said board shall consist of five members resi-
4 dent in this Commonwealth who shall hold diplomas from
5 training schools for nurses giving at least a two years'
6 course in the theory and practice of nursing in a hospital,
7 or a proper equivalent for a part thereof, or who under
8 the provision of this act shall have become registered
9 nurses, and who shall have had eight years' additional
10 experience in nursing the sick. Said board shall be ap-
11 pointed as follows: one member for one year, one for two
12 years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for
13 five years from the first day of October, nineteen hun-
14 dred and seven, and until their respective successors are
15 appointed; and thereafter the governor, with the advice
16 and consent of the council, shall, before the first day of

17 October in each year, appoint in the manner aforesaid
18 one person qualified as aforesaid to hold office for five
19 years from the first day of October next ensuing. Va-
20 cancies in said board shall be filled in accordance with
21 the provisions of this act for the appointment of the
22 original board, and a person appointed to fill a vacancy
23 shall hold office during the unexpired term of the member
24 whose place he or she fills. Any member of said board
25 may be removed from office for cause by the governor,
26 with the advice and consent of the council.

1 SECTION 2. The members of said board shall meet on
2 the second Tuesday of October, nineteen hundred and
3 seven, and annually thereafter, at such hour and place as
4 they may determine, and shall immediately proceed to
5 organize by electing a chairman and secretary, who shall
6 hold their respective offices for the term of one year. The
7 secretary shall give to the treasurer and receiver-general
8 of the Commonwealth a bond, with sufficient sureties to
9 be approved by the governor and council, for the faithful
10 discharge of the duties of his or her office. The said
11 board shall hold four regular meetings in each year: one
12 on the second Tuesday of January, one on the second
13 Tuesday of April, one on the second Tuesday of July,
14 and one on the second Tuesday of October, and additional
15 meetings at such times and places as it may determine.

1 SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of said board, imme-
2 diately upon its organization, to notify all persons en-
3 gaged in the practice of nursing the sick in this Common-
4 wealth of the times, places, and subjects of the examina-
5 tions for registration, by publication in one or more news-
6 papers in each county. Applications for registration
7 shall be made upon blanks to be furnished by the board,
8 and shall be signed and sworn to by the applicants. Each

9 applicant for registration who shall furnish satisfactory
10 proof that he or she is of good moral character shall,
11 upon payment of a fee of one dollar, be examined by the
12 said board, *provided* said applicant for registration shall
13 satisfy said board by presentation of diploma or certifi-
14 cate that he or she is a graduate of a training school for
15 nurses giving at least a two years' course in the theory
16 and practice of nursing in a hospital, or a proper equiva-
17 lent for a part thereof, or shall present a certificate from
18 a general hospital giving evidence of a two years' course
19 of training in the theory and practice of nursing in such
20 hospital, or certificates from one or more hospitals, gen-
21 eral or special, giving evidence of having pursued at least
22 a two years' course of training in the theory and prac-
23 tice of nursing in a hospital. If upon such examination
24 the applicant shall be found qualified, he or she shall be
25 registered as a professional nurse, with a right to use the
26 title "registered nurse," and shall receive a certificate
27 thereof from the board signed by the chairman and sec-
28 retary. An applicant who fails to pass an examination
29 satisfactory to the board and is therefore refused regis-
30 tration shall be entitled, within one year after such re-
31 fusal, to a re-examination at a meeting of the board called
32 for the examination of applicants, without the payment of
33 an additional fee. Said board, after hearing, may by
34 unanimous vote revoke any certificate issued by it and
35 cancel the registration of any professional nurse who has
36 been guilty of any felony or of any crime or misdemeanor
37 in the practice of his or her profession. All fees received
38 by the board shall once in each month be paid by its sec-
39 retary into the treasury of the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 4. Examinations shall be in part in writing
2 in the English language and in part in practical work,

3 and shall include the principles and methods of nursing.
4 Due credit shall be given for examinations in special
5 branches.

1 SECTION 5. Every resident of this Commonwealth
2 who shall make application for registration within two
3 years from the passage of this act, and who shall, by
4 affidavit or otherwise, show to the satisfaction of the
5 board that he or she is qualified for examination as pro-
6 vided in section three, shall be registered without exam-
7 ination upon payment of a fee of one dollar.

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

1 SECTION 7. Each member of the board shall receive
2 five dollars for every day actually spent in the perform-
3 ance of his or her duties, and the necessary travelling ex-
4 penses actually expended in attending the meetings of
5 the board, not exceeding three cents a mile each way.
6 Such compensation and the incidental and travelling ex-
7 penses shall be approved by the board and paid by the
8 Commonwealth only from the fees paid over by the
9 board.

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

1 SECTION 9. The board shall keep a record of the names
2 of all persons registered hereunder, and of all money
3 received and disbursed by it, and a duplicate thereof

4 shall be open to inspection in the office of the secretary of
5 the Commonwealth. Said board shall annually, on or
6 before the first day of January, make a report to the
7 governor of the condition of professional nursing in this
8 Commonwealth, of all its official acts during the preced-
9 ing year, and of its receipts and disbursements.

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

1 SECTION 11. The provisions of this act shall not be
2 held to apply to gratuitous nursing of the sick by friends
3 or members of the family, or to the acts of any person
4 nursing the sick for hire who does not assume to be a
5 registered nurse.

1 SECTION 12. For the purpose of the appointment of
2 said board and of the registration of persons by it here-
3 under, this act shall take effect upon its passage, and
4 shall take full effect on the first day of November in the
5 year nineteen hundred and eight.

