
By Mr. Khachadorian of Arlington (by request) petition of Meyer H. Goldman for legislation to change the statute of limitations covering malpractice cases. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT CHANGING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS COVERING MALPRACTICE 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 Chapter 260 of the General Laws is hereby amended in sec-
2 tion 4 by striking out in the first sentence thereof the following
3 words:— “physicians, surgeons, dentists, optometrists, hos-
4 pitals and sanitarium” and by adding at the end thereof after the
5 word “accrues” the following:— and actions of contract or tort
6 for malpractice, error or mistake against physicians, surgeons,
7 dentists, optometrists, and hospitals and sanitarium, shall be com-
8 menced only within two years next after the injured party has
9 knowledge of the facts which give rise to a cause of action,—
10 so that the sentence shall read as follows:— Actions for assault
11 and battery, false imprisonment, slander, actions against sher-
12 iffs, deputy sheriffs, constables or assignees in insolvency for the
13 taking or conversion of personal property, actions or tort for
14 injuries to the person against counties, cities and towns, and
15 actions of contract or tort for malpractice, error or mistake
16 against hairdressers, operators and shops registered under sec-
17 tions eighty-seven T to eighty-seven JJ, inclusive, of chapter
18 one hundred and twelve, shall be commenced only within two
19 years next after the cause of action accrues, and actions of con-
20 tract or tort for malpractice, error or mistake against physi-
21 cians, surgeons, dentists, optometrists, and hospitals and sani-
22 taria, shall be commenced only within two years next after the
23 injured party has knowledge of the facts which give rise to a
24 cause of action.

