

SENATE No. 1586

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, August 12, 1970.

The committee on State Administration, to whom was referred the Second report of the special commission established (under Chapter 64 of the Resolves of 1969 and revived and continued under Chapter 2 of the Resolves of 1970) to make an investigation and study relative to hunger and malnutrition in the Commonwealth and certain related matters (Senate, No. 1574), reports the accompanying Bill (Senate, No. 1586).

For the committee,

JAMES A. KELLY, JR.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NUTRITION BOARD AND AN OFFICE OF NUTRITION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

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 17 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding at the end, under the caption NUTRITION BOARD
3 AND OFFICE OF NUTRITION the following three sections:—

4 *Section 13.* There shall be in the department a nutrition
5 board, hereinafter in this section and sections 14 and 15
6 called the board, consisting of the commissioner, who shall
7 be the chairman, the commissioner of public welfare, the
8 commissioner of mental health, the commissioner of educa-
9 tion, the commissioner of agriculture, or their respective desig-
10 nees and nine (9) persons to be appointed by the governor, of
11 whom one shall be a registered physician with experience in
12 nutritional science, one a qualified practicing nutritionist or
13 dietitian with experience and knowledge in public and com-
14 munity nutrition, one a representative of the food industry,
15 one a nutrition educator from an institution of higher edu-
16 cation concerned with graduate education in the field of nu-
17 trition, and five representatives of the general public who
18 shall be consumers selected in a manner so as to reflect the
19 population distribution of the commonwealth. In making his
20 initial appointments the governor shall appoint two members
21 for terms of one year, three members for terms of two years
22 and three members for terms of three years. Thereafter, as
23 their terms expire, the governor shall appoint members for
24 terms of three years.

25 *Section 14.* The board shall (a) plan and coordinate long-
26 range nutrition programs for the commonwealth; (b) im-
27 plement nutritional goals set forth by the White House Con-
28 ference on Food and Nutrition; (c) monitor and evaluate
29 existing programs, including food assistance programs such as
30 commodity distribution programs and food stamp programs,
31 welfare allocations for special dietary needs, and other pro-

32 grams; (d) assess and survey the nutritional health of citizens
33 of the commonwealth, especially of so-called "high-risk"
34 groups; (e) assist in the development of programs and proj-
35 jects in the appropriate institutions, departments, bureaus, and
36 offices of both the private and voluntary sector and the govern-
37 mental sector at all levels; (f) develop research programs,
38 prepare appropriate legislation, and secure the benefits of
39 various governmental and non-governmental funding oppor-
40 tunities to the citizens of the commonwealth.

41 (g) Act as a search committee for finding appropriately
42 qualified people for the position of director and chief public
43 health nutritionist in the office of food and nutrition.

44 The board shall meet at least four times annually and from
45 time to time at the call of the chairman.

46 Decisions and recommendations of the board shall be made
47 by affirmative vote, of a majority of its members. Decisions
48 and recommendations of the board shall be implemented
49 through the office of nutrition. The director of the office of
50 nutrition shall serve as executive director of the board. The
51 office of nutrition shall provide the board with necessary
52 clerical and administrative services.

53 Appointive members of the board shall be compensated at
54 the rate of twenty-five dollars for each day or portion thereof
55 spent in a meeting of the board, not exceeding 250 dollars in
56 any one year, and shall be reimbursed for their travelling
57 expenses necessarily incurred in attending such meetings.

58 *Section 15.* There shall be within the department an office
59 of nutrition headed by a director, who shall be directly re-
60 sponsible to the commissioner, and who shall be a physician
61 who is a recognized authority in the field of public health
62 nutrition and nutritional sciences, or a person with equivalent
63 qualifications in administration or nutritional sciences and
64 wide experience in public health nutrition, nutrition research
65 and nutrition education specializing in nutrition. The director
66 shall serve as executive director of the board, for which service
67 he shall receive no compensation other than that provided
68 him as director of the office of nutrition. The director and
69 staff shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 31.

70 The commissioner, with the advice of the nutrition board
71 shall appoint the director, the professional nutrition staff,

72 the technical personnel, the administrative assistants and the
73 clerical staff as required. The professional nutrition staff
74 shall be made up of a chief public health nutritionist and a
75 minimum of twelve (12) qualified nutritionists.

76 The chief public health nutritionist shall have an advanced
77 degree and extensive experience in hospital, therapeutic and
78 public health nutrition and nutrition education.

79 The staff nutritionists shall be qualified and trained in the
80 field of public health and/or hospital dietetics as well as having
81 experience and training in specialized areas of nutrition to
82 meet specific program needs.

83 A nutritionist shall be assigned to each of the regions and
84 to such program areas as family health; adult health, chronic
85 diseases, day care, education, nutrition studies and state in-
86 stitutions.

87 Salaries and grade levels shall be commensurate with com-
88 parable professional positions in state service, and competi-
89 tive with those in the private sector of the commonwealth.

90 The director shall be no less than grade 31.

91 The chief public health nutritionist shall be no less than
92 grade 24.

93 The staff nutritionists shall be classified into four catagories
94 from grade 17 to 22.

95 The office of nutrition shall (a) work in cooperation with
96 the nutrition board in developing and implementing state-wide
97 nutrition policies for the commonwealth; (b) develop standards
98 and guidelines for establishing and maintaining appropriate
99 nutrition services in all health agencies, such as institutions
100 operated by the commonwealth, nursing homes, child care
101 centers, and maternal and infant health centers; (c) assist
102 the commissioner in the development and execution of nutri-
103 tion programs within the department; (d) provide professional
104 consultation and counseling services to all health-related agen-
105 cies in the commonwealth; (e) develop new and coordinate
106 existing nutrition education programs in the state especially
107 in the areas of public, pre-school, elderly, pre-natal and pro-
108 fessional nutrition education; (f) maintain professional liaison
109 with nutrition divisions in other states and with federal
110 agencies.