

By Mr. Burke, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 486) of the Legislative Council for Older Americans, by Frank Manning, Edward L. Burke, Gerard D'Amico, John G. King and Arthur Joseph Lewis, Jr., for legislation to expand health care for nursing home residents. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-two.

AN ACT TO EXPAND HEALTH CARE FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS.

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. Section 9 of chapter 94C of the General Laws,
 2 as amended by sections ten through thirteen, inclusive of
 3 chapter 1190 of the Acts of 1973, is hereby further amended
 4 in each of the subsections by adding after the word "podi-
 5 atrist" the words "practitioners of professional nursing as
 6 professional nursing is defined in the second sentence of the
 7 first definition in section eighty B of chapter one hundred
 8 twelve of the General Laws, physicians assistant."

1 SECTION 2. Section 9E of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
 2 as added by section one of chapter 937 of the Acts of 1973, is
 3 hereby amended by inserting after the second paragraph the
 4 following paragraph: —

5 A physician assistant may order therapeutics and tests, and
 6 may prescribe medications, for chronic patients in long-term
 7 care facilities or in home care settings where the individual
 8 would otherwise require institutionalization so long as such
 9 services are rendered under the supervision of a registered
 10 physician. Prescription of medication shall be limited to cate-
 11 gories determined pursuant to regulations promulgated by the
 12 Board of Registration in Medicine.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter one hundred twelve is hereby
 2 amended by inserting after section eighty D, as added by
 3 chapter 129 of the Acts of 1977, the following new section: —
 4 *Section 80E.* A practitioner of professional nursing as pro-

5 fessional nursing is defined in the second sentence of the first
6 definition in section 80B of this chapter may order therapeu-
7 tics and tests, and may prescribe medications, for patients in
8 long-term care facilities or in home care settings where the
9 individual would otherwise require institutionalization. Pre-
10 scription of medications shall be limited to categories as are
11 approved by the board and the Board of Registration in Medi-
12 cine in rules and regulations which shall be promulgated and
13 implemented by the board within sixty days of the effective
14 date of this act.