

By Mr. Backman of Brookline, petition of Jack H. Backman for legislation to authorize the Department of Mental Health to set up schools for practical nurses. Social Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PERMITTING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO SET UP SCHOOLS FOR PRACTICAL NURSES.

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 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 6 the following four sections:—

3 *Section 7.* The department may set up schools for practical
4 nurses at each public institution mentioned in section five of
5 chapter nineteen.

6 *Section 8.* The department shall fix the amount of tuition
7 fee to be paid by each student at any of the said schools for
8 practical nurses.

9 *Section 9. (a)* The department may grant tuition scholar-
10 ships coupled with leave of absence with pay to Grade IV
11 ward employees of the department under such rules and
12 regulations as the department may adopt. Said Grade IV
13 ward employees granted tuition scholarships coupled with
14 leaves of absence with pay shall take a special course at a
15 school for practical nurses set up by the department in order
16 to train them as practical nurses; provided, that prior to the
17 granting of such scholarship and leave of absence with pay, to
18 any employee, said employee shall enter into a written
19 agreement with the department that upon the satisfactory
20 completion of the special course at a school for practical
21 nurses set up by the department, he will return to the service
22 of the department and serve as a practical nurse for a period

23 of two years, and that in default of completing such service,
24 he will refund to the commonwealth unless excused therefrom
25 by the department for reasons satisfactory to it, an amount
26 equal to such proportion of the salary received by him while
27 on leave as the amount of service not actually rendered as
28 agreed bears to the whole amount of service agreed to be
29 rendered.

30 (b) After satisfactory completion of the said special course
31 by said Grade IV ward employees granted tuition scholar-
32 ships coupled with leave of absence with pay, said employees
33 shall be eligible to be employed by the department at any of
34 said public institutions mentioned in section five in the grade
35 and pay status of practical nurses but shall not receive a
36 general license as practical nurses, until the completion of at
37 least two years satisfactory service in one of said public
38 institutions as a practical nurse. Except as herein provided,
39 attendance or study by a Grade IV ward employee under a
40 tuition scholarship coupled with leave of absence with pay,
41 shall not be credited or considered in any manner toward
42 completion of any course of study at a private school of
43 practical nursing not under the jurisdiction of the depart-
44 ment.

45 *Section 10.* The organization and operation of said schools
46 shall be subject to sections eighty A to eighty-one C of
47 chapter one hundred and twelve.