

SENATE No. 2105

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, October 16, 2003.

The committee on Health Care, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 613) of Richard T. Moore, Susan W. Pope, Bruce E. Tarr, Susan C. Fargo and Elizabeth A. Poirier for legislation to establish a special committee to coordinate the transfer of certain health related boards of registration to the Department of Public Health report (accompanied by a New Draft, Senate, No. 2105).

For the committee,

RICHARD T. MOORE.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO HEALTH RELATED BOARDS OF REGISTRATION.

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 13 of the General Laws as
2 most recently amended by Section 13 of Chapter 184 of the Acts
3 of 2002, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a), and
4 inserting in place thereof the following subsection:—

5 (a) The following boards of registration shall serve in the
6 department of public health: the board of registration in medicine;
7 the board of registration in nursing; the board of registration in
8 pharmacy; the board of registration of physician assistants; the
9 board of registration of perfusionists; the board of registration of
10 nursing home administrators; the board of registration in den-
11 tistry; the board of registration of respiratory therapists; board of
12 registration of allied health professions; board of registration in
13 podiatry; board of registration in optometry; board of registration
14 of chiropractors; board of registration of health officers; board of
15 registration for speech language pathology and audiology; board
16 of registration of dispensing opticians; and the board of registra-
17 tion of psychologists.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by Section 93 of Chapter 184 of the Acts
3 of 2002, is hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph,
4 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

5 The commissioner of public health shall supervise the work of
6 the board of registration in nursing, the board of registration in
7 pharmacy, the board of registration of physician assistants, the
8 board of registration of perfusionists, the board of registration of
9 nursing home administrators, the board of registration in dentistry,
10 the board of registration of respiratory therapists, board of regis-
11 tration of allied health professions, board of registration in podi-

12 aty, board of registration in optometry, board of registration of
13 chiropractors, board of registration of health officers, board of
14 registration for speech language pathology and audiology, board
15 of registration of dispensing opticians, and the board of registra-
16 tion of psychologists. The commissioner shall recommend
17 changes in the methods of conducting examinations and trans-
18 acting business, and shall make such reports to the governor as the
19 commissioner may require or the director may deem expedient.
20 The commissioner of public health shall consult with the chair of
21 the board of registration in medicine concerning the operations of
22 the board.

1 SECTION 3. There is hereby established a special committee to
2 coordinate the transfer of certain boards of registration from the
3 division of professional licensure to the department of public
4 health. The committee shall consist of: the secretary of the execu-
5 tive office of health and human services or his designee; the
6 director of the office of consumer affairs and business regulation
7 or his designee; the commissioner of the department of public
8 health or his designee; and the director of the division of profes-
9 sional licensure or his designee. The committee shall, in consulta-
10 tion with such individuals and organizations as it deems
11 necessary: recommend methods for boards of registration to notify
12 and educate licensees about the transfer; identify potential regula-
13 tory conflicts or other obstacles to the efficient operation of such
14 boards of registration or to the protection of health care con-
15 sumers in the commonwealth; and assess opportunities for coordi-
16 nation between boards of registration and with the Betsy Lehman
17 center for patient safety and medical error reduction. The com-
18 mittee shall report its findings, and any recommendations to
19 assure the efficient transfer of such boards of registration, to the
20 governor, the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate,
21 the joint committee on health care, and the house and senate com-
22 mittees on ways and means no later than July 1, 2006.

1 SECTION 4. The General Court shall review and consider the
2 implementation of the recommendations by the Department of
3 Public Health as issued in its December 2, 2002 report pursuant to
4 Section 240 of Chapter 184 of the Acts of 2002.

