

HOUSE No. 3591

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer M. Callahan

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to a nurse deputy commissioner at the department of public health.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jennifer M. Callahan | 18th Worcester |
| Thomas P. Kennedy | Second Plymouth and Bristol |
| Bruce E. Tarr | First Essex and Middlesex |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO A NURSE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AT 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 SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 5 of chapter 17 of the General laws, as
2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting before the first sentence
3 the following sentences: - The commissioner shall, with the approval of the public health
4 council, designate a nurse deputy commissioner who is a registered nurse. Said nurse deputy
5 commissioner shall be a graduate of an accredited four-year college or university nursing
6 program, shall have a master's degree in public health or a related field and shall have not less
7 than five years of administrative experience of which two years shall have been in the
8 organization, management or delivery of health care services. The nurse deputy commissioner
9 shall be subject to chapter thirty-one and in addition to the performance of such duties as may be
10 prescribed by the commissioner shall, under the supervision of the commissioner, be responsible
11 for statewide planning, policy development and the coordination of clinical decision-making,
12 communication and resource management for district health officers and programs within
13 divisions of the department, including but not limited to; the division of family and community

14 health, the division of health care quality, the division of communicable and venereal diseases,
15 the division of alcoholism, the division of drug rehabilitation and the division of food and drugs.

16 SECTION 2. Section 5 of chapter 17 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official
17 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 1, the words “The commissioner may,” and
18 inserting in place thereof the words: - In addition to said nurse deputy commissioner, the
19 commissioner may,

20