

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 247**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act to certify community health workers in Massachusetts..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Pursuant to Section 110 of Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006, which mandated  
2 recommendations for a community health worker certification program, Chapter 13 of the  
3 Massachusetts General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 97 the following:

4 Section 98: There shall be a board of certification of community health workers  
5 hereinafter called the board. The board shall be included in the Division of Health Professions  
6 Licensure at the Department of Public Health. The board shall regulate the training and  
7 certification of community health workers and shall have the following duties:

8 develop and administer a certification program for community health workers, including  
9 training and continuing education requirements, adopting a system to document and recognize  
10 prior learning, mastery of core competencies, and including grandfathering guidelines for  
11 certification of community health workers practicing in Massachusetts at the time of passage of  
12 this section;

13           develop and administer certification programs for individuals, community health worker  
14 trainers and organizations that train community health workers, including guidelines defining  
15 training curricula based on core competencies and guidelines for additional training in  
16 specialized areas of practice;

17           develop, administer, and enforce provisions for granting and revoking certification for the  
18 practice of community health work and the training of community health workers;

19           conduct public hearings and keep records and minutes as are necessary to carry out its  
20 duties. The board shall provide a 30 day public notice of the times and places of all hearings  
21 authorized under this section, in a manner it may determine.

22           The board shall consist of 11 members to be appointed by the governor. One member  
23 shall be the commissioner of the department of public health, or his/her designee, who shall chair  
24 the board. Additional members shall be appointed to ensure representation of all six geographic  
25 regions of the executive office of health and human services and shall include no fewer than four  
26 community health workers selected from recommendations offered by the Massachusetts  
27 Association of Community Health Workers; one representative of a community health worker  
28 training organization; one representative of the Massachusetts Public Health Association; one  
29 representative of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans; one representative of the  
30 Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; one community-based CHW employer  
31 representative and one consumer representative familiar with community health worker services.

32           Of the first appointments three shall serve one year, three shall serve two years and four  
33 shall three years. Each appointed member of the board thereafter shall serve terms of 3 years. No

34 member shall be appointed to more than 2 consecutive full terms. A former member shall again  
35 be eligible for appointment after a lapse of one or more years.

36 The board shall, at its first meeting, and annually thereafter, elect from among its  
37 members a vice-chairperson, and a secretary. Such officers shall serve until their successors are  
38 elected. The board shall meet at least quarterly or more often upon the call of the chairman at  
39 such times and places as the chairperson shall designate.

40 Board members shall serve without compensation but be reimbursed for necessary  
41 expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

42 The board shall be supported, subject to appropriation, with a director, administrative  
43 assistant, and such other professional staff and operating expenses as are required to discharge its  
44 responsibilities under this section.