

# An Act relative to the Governance of the Health Policy Commission H1681/S615



## Health Policy Commission

The Health Policy Commission (HPC) is an independent state agency that develops policy to reduce health care cost growth and improve the quality of patient care. The HPC's mission is to advance a more transparent, accountable, and innovative health care system through its independent policy leadership and investment programs. The HPC's goal is better health and better care – at a lower cost – across the Commonwealth. The agency's main responsibilities are led by HPC staff and overseen by an 11-member Board of Commissioners.

Key activities include:

- Setting the health care cost growth benchmark;

- Setting and monitoring provider and payer performance relative to the health care cost growth benchmark;

- Creating standards for care delivery systems that are accountable to better meet patients' medical, behavioral, and social needs;**

- Analyzing the impact of health care market transactions on cost, quality, and access; and investing in community health care delivery and innovations.**

An Act relative to the governance of the Health Policy Commission includes nurse representation. Sponsored by Representative Kay Khan and Senator Eileen Donoghue, this bill is asking for a Registered Nurse licensed to practice in Massachusetts be appointed to the Health Policy Commission for an original term of 5 years. This bill was reported favorably on 2/6/18 and referred to Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

The Health Policy Commission is charged with making important decisions about the course of health care delivery in Massachusetts and has been dealing with critical issues that affect the practice of nursing, like mandatory overtime legislation, ICU staffing acuity and mental health/substance misuse management. Because there is not a nurse on the Health Policy Commission, representatives of the Commission have had to reach out to ANA Massachusetts for clarification and advice on many issues requiring our expertise.

### **Appointment of a Registered Nurse to the Health Policy Commission will:**

- Assure that the voice of the nursing profession will always be heard when important decisions about the delivery of health care are made.

- Bring evidenced-based practice and a unique perspective to the health care discussion.

- A key responsibility of the Health Policy Commission is to create standards for care delivery systems that are accountable to better meet patients' medical, behavioral, and social needs. It is the registered nurse who is with the patient the majority of the time therefore in the unique position of hearing and observing nuances in patient behavior and the interpersonal relations that affect a patient's health status.

**A registered nurse on the Health Policy Commission would be an invaluable asset to its work.**

**American Nurses Association of Massachusetts urges your support for H1681/S615**

**An Act relative to the governance of the Health Policy Commission.**