

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Morrissey, Michael (SEN)**

*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 the nurses rehabilitation program participant bill of rights .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Morrissey, Michael (SEN)	Norfolk and Plymouth

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S01128 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

---

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE NURSES REHABILITATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANT BILL OF RIGHTS .

*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 80F of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (g) the following:-
- 3 (h) All rehabilitation programs created by this section must abide by the Substance Abuse  
4 Rehabilitation Program Participant Bill of Rights, which states:
- 5           1. All Participants are allowed an Attorney of their choice.
  - 6           2. Mental illness issues other than Drug and Alcohol addiction are off limits to SARP  
7           Administrators.
  - 8           3. There must be consistency in punishment for re-lapses or violations of the rules.

- 9        4. All participants in this program have the right to appeal to an Independent Advocate that  
10            reports into someone other than the Nursing Board. This advocate must have the power  
11            to mediate disconnects between the SARP coordinators and SARP Participant Attorneys.
- 12        5. Nurses should be allowed to develop and join support groups that will help them in their  
13            recovery. These groups should have no connection with the SARP Board other than a  
14            tool in the recovery process.