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ORDER EXTENDING CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL LICENSES, PERMITS, AND REGISTRATIONS ISSUED BY COMMONWEALTH AGENCIES

COVID-19 Order No. 18

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS, on March 11, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the Commonwealth. As of March 25, 2020, the Department of Public Health had reported 1,838 cases of COVID-19, including 15 deaths, with counties across the Commonwealth affected;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health is urging all residents of the Commonwealth to limit activities outside of the home and to practice social distancing at all times, both inside and outside of the home to limit the spread of this highly contagious and potentially deadly virus;

WHEREAS, thousands of professional licenses, permits, and certificates of registration issued by the Commonwealth, its agencies, and its boards of professional licensure are renewed each month on a regular basis;

WHEREAS, the escalating COVID-19 public health emergency will make it difficult for licensed businesses and other organizations to renew their State-issued licenses, permits, or registrations during the state of emergency;

WHEREAS, licensed businesses and organizations provide important services throughout the Commonwealth, and the inability of these businesses to continue operating during

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the state of emergency would undermine economic resiliency and burden the Commonwealth's economy; and

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including the authority to modify of the terms and conditions of licenses, permits, or certificates of registration issued by the Commonwealth or any of its agencies or political subdivisions;

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

(1) **Extension of Registrations:** Any professional license, certificate, or registration issued by a state agency or any board of registration or division or licensing authority within a state agency to any for-profit or non-profit business or organization, not already covered by

   a. the March 17, 2020 Order Extending the Registration of Certain Licensed Health Care Professionals,
   b. the March 17, 2020 Order Expanding Access to Physician Services,
   c. the March 15, 2020 Order Authorizing the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to Temporarily Extend Licenses, Permits, and Other Identification Cards, or
   d. the March 18, 2020 Order Extending the Registrations of Certain Licensed Professionals

   that is in good standing as of the date of this Order and that has expired, or will expire, during the state of emergency, is hereby extended and shall remain valid until 90 days following the termination of the state of emergency.

(2) For purposes of this Order, a "state agency" shall include an executive office listed in Section 2 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, or a state agency, as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29 of the General Laws, that reports to or is otherwise located within an executive office listed in Section 2 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws.

(3) For purposes of this Order "in good standing" shall include a license, certificate, or registration that is subject to probation or non-disciplinary conditions, but shall not include a license, certificate, or registration that is revoked, cancelled, surrendered, suspended, or subject to disciplinary restrictions.

(4) Nothing in this Order shall prevent any secretariat, agency, or board with licensing authority from exercising its statutory and regulatory enforcement authority during the state of emergency.

The head of every secretariat, agency, and division that issues professional licenses, certificates or registrations, as well as every Commonwealth board of registration and examination, is directed forthwith to issue guidance, subject to my approval, to implement the terms of this Order. Such guidance shall include any clarifying exclusions for licenses, certificates or registrations issued to businesses and organizations that do not constitute a

"professional license, certificate, or registration." Those secretariats, agencies, divisions, and boards shall enforce this Order.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until 90 days after the state of emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 3:01 PM this 26th day of March, two thousand and twenty

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts