



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**Raised Bill No. 5635**

LCO No. 2302

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS AND TESTING BY RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) On or before January 1,  
2 2005, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Public Health shall  
3 obtain from the American Association of Medical Assistants, a listing  
4 of all state residents maintained on said organization's registry of  
5 certified medical assistants. The commissioner shall make such listing  
6 available for public inspection.

7 Sec. 2. Section 20-162n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
8 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

9 As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14 and sections 20-162n to  
10 20-162q, inclusive:

11 (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

12 (b) "Respiratory care" means health care under the direction of a  
13 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 and in accordance with  
14 written protocols developed by said physician, employed in the

15 therapy, management, rehabilitation, diagnostic evaluation and care of  
16 patients with deficiencies and abnormalities which affect the  
17 cardiopulmonary system and associated aspects of other system  
18 functions and which includes the following: (1) The therapeutic and  
19 diagnostic use of medical gases, administering apparatus,  
20 humidification and aerosols, administration of drugs and medications  
21 to the cardiorespiratory systems, ventilatory assistance and ventilatory  
22 control, postural drainage, chest physiotherapy and breathing  
23 exercises, respiratory rehabilitation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
24 and maintenance of natural airways as well as the insertion and  
25 maintenance of artificial airways, (2) the specific testing techniques  
26 employed in respiratory therapy to assist in diagnosis, monitoring,  
27 treatment and research, including the measurement of ventilatory  
28 volumes, pressures and flows, specimen collection of blood and other  
29 materials, pulmonary function testing and hemodynamic and other  
30 related physiological monitoring of cardiopulmonary systems, [and]  
31 (3) performance of a purified protein derivative test to identify  
32 exposure to tuberculosis, and (4) patient education in self-care  
33 procedures as part of the ongoing program of respiratory care of such  
34 patient. The practice of respiratory therapy is not limited to the  
35 hospital setting;

36 (c) "Respiratory care practitioner" means a person who is licensed to  
37 practice respiratory care in this state pursuant to section 20-162o and  
38 who may transcribe and implement written and verbal orders for  
39 respiratory care issued by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter  
40 370, or a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 or an  
41 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378  
42 who is functioning within the person's respective scope of practice.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide for inclusion in a registry for certified medical assistants and to allow respiratory therapists to perform tests for tuberculosis exposure.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*