



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 41**

January Session, 2005

House Bill No. 6586

*House of Representatives, March 17, 2005*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. SAYERS of the 60th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL TESTING BY RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-162n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

3 As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14 and sections 20-162n to  
4 20-162q, inclusive:

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

6 (b) "Respiratory care" means health care under the direction of a  
7 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 and in accordance with  
8 written protocols developed by said physician, employed in the  
9 therapy, management, rehabilitation, diagnostic evaluation and care of  
10 patients with deficiencies and abnormalities [which] that affect the  
11 cardiopulmonary system and associated aspects of other system  
12 functions and [which] that includes the following: (1) The therapeutic

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

30 (c) "Respiratory care practitioner" means a person who is licensed to  
 31 practice respiratory care in this state pursuant to section 20-162o and  
 32 who may transcribe and implement written and verbal orders for  
 33 respiratory care issued by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter  
 34 370, or a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 or an  
 35 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378  
 36 who is functioning within the person's respective scope of practice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	20-162n

**PH**            *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

Expanding the scope of practice of a trained respiratory care practitioner to include tuberculosis testing will result in no fiscal impact.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6586

***AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL TESTING BY RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows licensed respiratory care practitioners to perform purified protein derivative tests to identify tuberculosis (TB) exposure. The practitioner must have the appropriate training and education to perform this test.

This test, a tuberculin skin test, is used to see whether a person exposed to someone with active TB is infected with the bacteria (has latent TB). The test will be positive if the person has ever had a TB infection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 24    Nay 0