



House of Representatives

File No. 116

General Assembly

January Session, 2005

(Reprint of File No. 41)

House Bill No. 6586
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 1, 2005

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 Section 20-162n of the general statutes is repealed and the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) performance of a purified protein derivative test to identify
 26 exposure to tuberculosis, and (4) patient education in self-care
 27 procedures as part of the ongoing program of respiratory care of such
 28 patient. The practice of respiratory therapy is not limited to the
 29 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

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 respiratory care practitioner to include tuberculosis testing will result in no fiscal impact.

House "A" removes a requirement that respiratory care practitioners performing tuberculosis testing be appropriately trained and educated. No impact is associated with this change.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6586 (as amended by House "A")*

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.

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.

*House Amendment "A" eliminates language in the original file requiring the practitioner to have appropriate training and education to perform the tests.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 24 Nay 0