



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Raised Bill No. 6586**

LCO No. 2884

\*02884\_\_\_\_\_PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**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 Section 20-162n of the general statutes is repealed and the  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	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	20-162n

**Statement of Purpose:**

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.]*