



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 5, 2007

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Senate Bill 1254 – An Act Allowing Electrologists to Use Laser Technology for Hair Removal

The Department of Public Health opposes Senate Bill 1254.

Senate Bill 1254 would expand the scope of practice of electrology to allow licensed electrologists to permanently remove superfluous hair by use of laser technology. Currently, licensed electrologists are authorized to utilize only needle/probe electrode type epilation which includes electrolysis, thermolysis, or the blend (a combination of electrolysis and thermolysis).

In December 1997, the Connecticut Medical Examining Board issued a declaratory ruling which found that the use of lasers for hair removal is within the scope of medical practice and that a licensed physician with appropriate knowledge, experience and training should assess each patient prior to and during the course of hair removal treatment with laser therapy. Physicians may only delegate the operation of the laser for hair removal to licensed practitioners designated in Section 20-9 of the general statutes who may render services under the supervision, control and responsibility of a licensed physician, provided the assessment each patient is performed by the physician. The physician must also provide direct, on-site supervision in the course of laser hair removal treatment. Electrologists do not render services under the supervision, control and responsibility of a physician.

In expanding the scope of electrology practice, this proposal does not address any additional educational, training and examination requirements that licensed electrologists would need to satisfy prior to engaging in laser hair removal. Approved professional education programs in electrology are not required to include laser hair removal within their curriculum and the required licensure examinations do not test for competence in laser hair removal.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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