

BILL ANALYSIS

		<u>DATE:</u>	05/30/2008
<u>COMMITTEE:</u>	Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure	<u>BILL NO.:</u>	HB 1804
<u>PRIME SPONSOR:</u>	Rep. Yudichak	<u>PRINTER NO.</u>	3223

House bill 1804 amends the Medical Practice Act, enabling a respiratory therapist to become licensed by the State Board of Medicine and to obtain title protection.

The legislation provides for the current name and title, “respiratory care practitioner” to be changed to “respiratory therapist”, but it does not change or increase the respiratory therapist’s scope of practice. The bill statutorily creates a continuing education requirement of 30 hours of continuing education as a condition of biennial license renewal, with one credit hour in ethics and one credit hour in patient safety.

The State Board of Medicine is provided the authority to promulgate regulations jointly with the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine regarding the licensure and practice of respiratory therapists and requires that these regulations be promulgated within 18 months of the effective date of this act. This legislation is a companion bill to House Bill 2088.

Currently, respiratory care practitioners are certified by both the State Board of Medicine and the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine. By regulation, these individuals are required to obtain 20 hours of continuing education.

House Bill 1804 includes a grandfathering provision for individuals who presently hold certification as a respiratory care practitioner to become licensed within a 12 month period following the effective date of this legislation.

The bill would take effect in sixty days, but the section authorizing the Boards to promulgate regulations shall take effect immediately and regulations shall be promulgated within 18 months of the effective date of this act.