

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2989

---

---

As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long-Term Care, February 22, 2010

**Title:** An act relating to respiratory care practitioners.

**Brief Description:** Concerning respiratory care practitioners.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Moeller and Cody.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/16/10, 98-0.

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 2/22/10 [DP].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Pflug, Ranking Minority Member; Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray and Parlette.

**Staff:** Edith Rice (786-7444)

**Background:** A respiratory care practitioner (RCP) works with patients who have deficiencies and abnormalities affecting the cardiopulmonary system and associated systems. A RCP must be licensed and registered in order to practice, unless exempt, and must be under the order and qualified medical direction of a physician.

The practice of respiratory care covers an array of procedures, including: (1) the administration of prescribed medical gases; (2) postural drainage, chest percussion, and vibration; and (3) the insertion of devices to draw, analyze, infuse, or monitor pressure in blood as prescribed by a physician or an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP).

**Summary of Bill:** The types of practitioners under whose order and direction a RCP may practice are expanded to health care practitioners instead of physicians. Health care practitioner is defined to include physicians, osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physician assistants, and ARNPs.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This is a technical fix and reflects current practice. This will update the law and prevent unnecessary delays to provide treatment when needed.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Moeller, Nick Federici, Respiratory Care Society of Washington, Gary Wickman RCSW, Carl Hinkson RCSW.