

NEW YORK STATE THERAPEUTIC RECREATION LICENSURE Update January 28, 2012

Hello Everyone,

I realize it has been some time since the last TR Licensure update and a lot has developed. The licensure bill appears to be gaining momentum and catching the eyes of our senators and assembly members. To date we have six co-sponsors from the assembly. They are: Titone, Gunther, Abinanti, Galef, Lifton and Meng. We also have Senator DeFrancisco as a co-sponsor.

However the bill still remains in the Higher Education Committee in both the senate and assembly. Despite everyone's efforts, the bill has not been reviewed by either Higher Education Committee. Our next step is to contact our legislators and not only ask him or her for support of the bill but ask if they would co-sponsor the bill. It would be of greater significance if the legislator serves on the Higher Education Committee and co-sponsors the bill. In another words, legislators that co-sponsor the bill great, legislators that are on the Higher Education Committee that co-sponsor the bill even better yet!

Recently we have developed a Facebook page. Simply go to "License Therapeutic Recreation New York" and join us. By going to our Facebook page you see the most recent activity and developments with our bill. We also have a website. Go to <https://sites.google.com/site/licensurenews/>

I ask you to continue to reach out to your legislators and ask for support of the bill. Please send them letters, emails or even better make an appointment with your legislator. You can do so by visiting the New York State Assembly website at <http://assembly.state.ny.us> and at the New York State Senate website at <http://www.nysenate.gov>

Below is a sample letter or email you can use for your convenience

Most importantly, at the upcoming NYSTRA Conference the Licensure Committee is planning an all day trip on Tuesday, April 17th to meet with our legislators about the bill. This is a wonderful opportunity for us, as recreation therapists, to make an impact with our legislators and make this bill move forward. When you receive the NYSTRA Conference registration check that you would like to attend the trip to Albany and members from the Licensure Committee will contact you with more information about the trip.

I thank you for your continued patience and support as we continue to move therapeutic recreation forward in the state of New York.

Regards,

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Co-Chairs, New York State Therapeutic Licensure Committee

For the NYS Assembly use:

Hello, my name is _____. I would like to request that you sign on and support Assembly Bill number A 00674. It is a bill to license Therapeutic Recreation specialists to ensure that Recreation Therapy/Therapeutic Recreation is performed by trained professionals and it establishes standards for recreational therapy to preserve the quality of patient care. I strongly urge you to sign on and support this bill. Thank you,
(YOUR NAME)

For the NYS Senate use:

Hello, my name is _____. I would like to request that you sign on and support Senate Bill number S4561. It is a bill to license Therapeutic Recreation specialists to ensure that Recreation Therapy/Therapeutic Recreation is performed by trained professionals and it establishes standards for recreational therapy to preserve the quality of patient care. I strongly urge you to sign on and support this bill. Thank you,
(YOUR NAME)