

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION LICENSURE IN NEW YORK STATE

Update March 2011

Hello Everyone,

I just would like to give you a quick update about the TR Licensure Bill and it is good news.

The good news is that Assembly member Lancman has agreed to re-introduce the bill. The new Therapeutic Recreation Licensure Bill # is **AO0674**. Although Senator Lanza has agreed to re-introduce the bill in the Senate, we are still waiting and very hopeful that he will do so very soon.

The TR Licensure Committee is in the process of putting a plan together to contact each member of the Higher Education Committee so they are aware of the bill. We want to emphasize the importance of having the bill reviewed by the Higher Education Committee.

As a recreation professional, you can help too. At the upcoming NYSTRA Conference, TR Licensure Committee Members will be stationed in the hotel lobby through out the day so that you can have the opportunity to contact members of the Higher Education Committee and your legislator about the bill.

In the event you are unable to attend the NYSTRA Conference this year, please make the effort to contact your legislator about our licensure bill. You can do so by visiting the New York State Assembly website at <http://assembly.state.ny.us> We are also providing you with the contact information for the members of the Higher Education Committee for your convenience. The website is <http://assembly.state.ny.us/comm/?sec=mem&id=20>

Below is a sample letter or email you can 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)

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

Regards,

Vincent Bonadies, MS, CTRS
Linda Dianto, MS, CTRS
Co-Chairs
New York State Therapeutic Licensure Committee