

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION LICENSURE IN NEW YORK STATE **Update May 2011**

Hello Everyone,

I know it has only been a couple of months since the last New York State Licensure Bill Update, but as I have been finding out, sometimes things move really fast. Since my last update, I am glad to say that Senator Lanza has re-introduced the bill in the Senate. The bill number in the senate is **S4561**. This means that the bill has sponsorship in both the assembly and the senate. The bill number in the assembly is **A00674**. Currently the bill is waiting to be reviewed by the Higher Education Committee in both the senate and the assembly.

The Licensure Committee is hard at work making appointments with the members of the Higher Education Committee and speaking to them about the importance to have TRs licensed. Recently one of our committee members, Isabel Tiffen, had the opportunity to speak with Assembly member Lavine (who is on the Higher Education Committee) about our bill. Assembly member Lavine is very positive about the bill and thinks it would pass, but is very cautious on the length of time it may take to pass.

As we all remember last term, the TR licensure bill died in the Higher Education Committee. But this time we are building momentum and we can't stop our efforts. So I will encourage you to continue to write your legislators and ask them to support our bill.

You can do so by visiting the New York State Assembly website at <http://assembly.state.ny.us> and the New York State Senate website at <http://www.nysenate.gov>

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

For 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 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)

We 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