

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3157

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 11, 2023

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3157.

This bill adds language to current law governing the licensure of respiratory therapists that allows the passage of the Certified Respiratory Therapist examination, offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (“NBRC”) or any successor organization, to qualify an individual for licensure by the State Board of Respiratory Care. Presently, the law only recognizes passage of the Registered Respiratory Therapist Examination offered by the NBRC to qualify for licensure. Forty-seven other states recognize the passage of the Certified Respiratory Therapist examination as qualifying applicants for licensure, so this bill would conform New Jersey’s respiratory therapist requirements to most states in the country. Additionally, widening the options for the examinations an individual can take to qualify as a respiratory therapist will help address shortages in that profession in New Jersey.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3157 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4616, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that the bill will cause indeterminate annual expenditure increases to the State Board of Respiratory Care under the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety to issue additional licenses and anticipates these expenditures to be offset by revenues paid through Certified Respiratory Therapist application and licensure fees. The OLS estimates that the board may experience recurring workload increases from the new application and licensing requirements, which may require additional guidelines, review, and enforcement by the board.