



January 13, 2026

HOUSE BILL No. 1254

DIGEST OF HB 1254 (Updated January 13, 2026 11:22 am - DI 147)

Citations Affected: IC 25-13; IC 25-14; IC 25-34.5.

Synopsis: Various dental matters; respiratory care. Amends the educational requirements for dental hygienists. Amends the requirements for administration of nitrous oxide by a dental hygienist. Allows the state board of dentistry to establish additional requirements for an applicant who has failed the licensure examination at least three times. Amends the licensure and temporary permit requirements for respiratory care practitioners.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Goss-Reaves

January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Public Health.
January 13, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass.

HB 1254—LS 6889/DI 148



January 13, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1254

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 25-13-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.103-2011,
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Any person desiring to practice dental
4 hygiene in Indiana must procure from the board a license to practice
5 dental hygiene. To procure a license, the applicant must submit to the
6 board proof of graduation from an institution ~~for educating dental~~
7 ~~hygienists that is approved by the board described in section 6(2) of~~
8 ~~this chapter~~ and other credentials required by this chapter, together
9 with an application on forms prescribed and furnished by the board.
10 Each applicant must pay to the board an application fee set by the
11 board under section 5 of this chapter at the time the application is made
12 and must pass an examination administered by an entity approved by
13 the board. The board may establish under section 5 of this chapter
14 additional requirements as a prerequisite to taking an examination for
15 any applicant who has failed the examination two (2) or more times.
16 Application fees are not refundable.
17 (b) An applicant described under subsection (a) shall, at the request

HB 1254—LS 6889/DI 148



1 of the board, make an appearance before the board.

2 SECTION 2. IC 25-13-1-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
3 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The board shall
4 enforce this chapter.

5 (b) The board may adopt rules consistent with this chapter and with
6 IC 25-14-1 necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter, the
7 examination of dental hygienists, **educational requirements**
8 **described in section 6(2) of this chapter**, and for the conduct of the
9 practice of dental hygiene.

10 (c) The board may utilize a dental hygienist education program's
11 accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the
12 American Dental Association as evidence that the program has met all
13 or part of the standards for dental hygienist education programs
14 established by the board.

15 SECTION 3. IC 25-13-1-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.264-2013,
16 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
17 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. An applicant:

18 (1) must not have been convicted of a crime that has a direct
19 bearing on the applicant's ability to practice competently;

20 (2) must be a graduate of a:

21 (A) school for dental hygienists that:

22 (A) (i) is accredited by the Commission on Dental
23 Accreditation of the American Dental Association;

24 (B) (ii) is recognized by the board; and

25 (C) (iii) requires a formal course of training of not less than
26 two (2) years of eight (8) months each; **or**

27 (B) **dental college in a foreign country with a degree that is**
28 **substantially similar to a doctorate of:**

29 (i) **dental surgery; or**

30 (ii) **dental medicine;**

31 **determined and approved by the board;**

32 (3) must pass an examination administered by an entity approved
33 by the board; **and**

34 (4) may not take the examination described in subdivision (3)
35 more than three (3) times; **and**

36 (5) **if the applicant is a graduate of a dental college described**
37 **in subdivision (2), must submit the applicant's academic**
38 **transcripts for review by the board.**

39 SECTION 4. IC 25-13-1-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.35-2020,
40 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
41 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.7. (a) A dental hygienist or dental assistant (as
42 defined in IC 25-14-1-1.5(4)) may administer nitrous oxide under the



1 direct supervision of a licensed dentist if the dental hygienist or dental
2 assistant has:

3 (1) **either:**

4 (A) been employed in a dental practice for at least one (1)
5 year; or

6 (B) **has** graduated from a program:

7 (i) accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of
8 the American Dental Association; **or**

9 (ii) **approved by the board;**

10 (2) satisfactorily completed a three (3) hour didactic nitrous oxide
11 administration course **that:**

12 (A) **containing** **contains** curriculum on pharmacology,
13 biochemistry, anatomy of nitrous oxide administration,
14 emergency procedures, and the mechanics of operating a
15 nitrous unit; **and**

16 (B) **is** accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation
17 of the American Dental Association **or approved by the**
18 **board;** and

19 (3) demonstrated clinical competency on at least five (5) patients
20 under the direct supervision of a licensed Indiana dentist whose
21 license is in good standing.

22 (b) The licensed Indiana dentist supervising the clinical competency
23 under subsection (a)(3) shall provide to the dental hygienist or dental
24 assistant a signed affidavit certifying the competency.

25 (c) Upon receipt of the affidavit provided to a dental hygienist or
26 dental assistant under subsection (b), the provider of an educational
27 program or curriculum described in subsection (a)(2) shall issue a
28 certificate of completion to the dental hygienist or dental assistant. The
29 certificate of completion must be publicly displayed in the dental office
30 of the dental hygienist or dental assistant.

31 (d) Before permitting a dental hygienist or dental assistant to
32 administer nitrous oxide, the supervising dentist shall:

33 (1) verify that the dental hygienist or dental assistant has
34 completed the requirements of subsection (a);

35 (2) determine the maximum percent-dosage of nitrous oxide to be
36 administered to the patient; and

37 (3) ensure that any administration or monitoring of nitrous oxide
38 by dental hygienists or dental assistants is done in accordance
39 with relevant guidelines and standards developed by the
40 American Dental Association or the American Academy of
41 Pediatric Dentistry.

42 SECTION 5. IC 25-14-1-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.264-2013,



1 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
2 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A person desiring to begin the practice of
3 dentistry in Indiana shall procure from the board a license to practice
4 dentistry in Indiana. Except as provided in section 4.5 of this chapter,
5 to procure the license, the applicant must submit to the board proof of
6 graduation from a dental college recognized by the board. The board
7 may recognize dental schools accredited by the Commission on Dental
8 Accreditation of the American Dental Association, if the board is
9 satisfied that the recognition is consistent with the board's
10 requirements. Every applicant must pass an examination administered
11 by an entity approved by the board and, **except as provided in**
12 **subsection (b)**, may not take the examination more than three (3)
13 times.

14 **(b) The board may establish additional requirements for an**
15 **applicant who has failed the examination at least three (3) times.**
16 **The applicant must complete the additional requirements before**
17 **the applicant may take the examination again.**

18 **(b) (c) A fee paid under this article may not be refunded.**

19 SECTION 6. IC 25-34.5-2-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
20 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) Each applicant
21 for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner must present satisfactory
22 evidence that the applicant:

23 (1) does not have a conviction for:

24 (A) an act that would constitute a ground for disciplinary
25 sanction under IC 25-1-9; or

26 (B) a crime that has a direct bearing on the practitioner's
27 ability to practice competently;

28 (2) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action initiated by
29 the licensing or certification agency of another state or
30 jurisdiction on the grounds that the applicant was unable to
31 practice as a respiratory care practitioner without endangering the
32 public; and

33 (3) has **either:**

34 (A) **before January 1, 2028**, passed a respiratory care
35 practitioner licensing or certification examination approved by
36 the board; **or**

37 (B) **after December 31, 2027, successfully completed both**
38 **portions of the registered respiratory therapist**
39 **examination, administered by the National Board for**
40 **Respiratory Care or its successor organization.**

41 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner
42 must submit proof to the committee of the applicant's:



(1) graduation from a school or program of respiratory care that meets standards set by the board;

(2) completion of a United States military training program in respiratory care; or

(3) completion of sufficient postsecondary education to be credentialed by a national respiratory care practitioner organization approved by the committee.

(c) At the time of making application, each applicant must pay a fee determined by the board after consideration of a recommendation of the committee.

SECTION 7. IC 25-34.5-2-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.177-2015, SECTION 75, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) Except as provided in section 11 of this chapter, the committee shall issue a license to each applicant who

(1) successfully passes the examination provided in section 12 of this chapter; and

(2) meets the requirements of section 8 of this chapter.

(b) Subject to IC 25-1-2-6(e), a license issued under this section expires on the last day of the regular renewal cycle established under IC 25-1-5-4.

SECTION 8. IC 25-34.5-2-10.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.149-2022, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.1. (a) The committee shall issue a temporary permit to a person to practice respiratory care or to profess to be a respiratory care practitioner, not more than thirty (30) days after the application is filed and completed, if the person pays a fee and:

(1) has:

(A) a valid license or certificate to practice from another state; and

(B) applied for a license from the committee;

(2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify respiratory care practitioners but is credentialed by a national respiratory care practitioner association approved by the committee, and the person has applied for a license from the committee; or

(3) has:

(A) been approved by the committee to take the next examination; and

(B) graduated from a school or program approved by the committee; is qualified to take the examination by being a graduate of a school or program of respiratory care that meets standards set by the board.



(b) A temporary permit expires the earlier of:

- (1) the date the person holding the permit is issued a license under this article; or
- (2) the date the committee disapproves the person's license application.

(c) The committee may renew a temporary permit if the person holding the permit was scheduled to take the ~~next~~ examination and:

- (1) did not take the examination; and
- (2) shows good cause for not taking the examination.

(d) A permit renewed under subsection (c) expires on the date the person holding the permit receives the results from the ~~next~~ examination given after the permit was issued.

SECTION 9. IC 25-34.5-2-12 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. See: 12. (a) Examinations of applicants for licensure under this article shall be held at least semianually on dates set by the board.

(b) An examination under this section must include a written examination that tests the following:

- (1) The applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences as they relate to the practice of respiratory care.
- (2) Other subjects that the committee considers useful to test an applicant's fitness to practice respiratory care.

(c) An otherwise qualified applicant who fails an examination and is refused licensure may take another scheduled examination upon payment of an additional fee set by the board under rules adopted under section 7 of this chapter.

SECTION 10. IC 25-34.5-2-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.152-2024, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The committee shall issue a student permit to an individual if the individual does the following:

- (1) Submits the appropriate application to the committee.
- (2) Pays the fee established by the board.
- (3) Submits written proof to the committee that the individual is a student in good standing in a respiratory care school or program that: ~~has been~~:
 - (A) ~~has been~~ approved by the committee for purposes of section 8(b)(1) of this chapter;
 - (B) ~~approved by the committee for purposes of section 10.1(a)(3)(B) is described in section 10.1(a)(3) of this chapter; or~~
 - (C) ~~has been~~ otherwise approved by the committee.
- (4) Submits satisfactory evidence that the individual:

- (A) does not have a conviction described in section 8(a)(1) of



this chapter; and

(B) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action described in section 8(a)(2) of this chapter.

(b) The committee shall issue a student permit as soon as it is reasonably practicable after an individual fulfills the requirements of subsection (a).

(c) An individual who holds a student permit may only perform respiratory care procedures that have been part of a course:

(1) the individual has successfully completed in the respiratory

care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and

(2) for which the successful completion has been documented and that is available upon request to the committee.

(d) The committee may expand the list of respiratory care procedures that an individual may perform under the individual's student permit to include additional respiratory care procedures that have been part of a course:

- (1) that the individual has successfully completed in the respiratory care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and
- (2) for which the individual's successful completion has been documented.

Upon request by the committee, the individual shall provide documentation of the successful completion of a course described in this subsection.

(e) The procedures permitted under subsections (c) and (d) may be performed only:

(1) on patients who are not critical care patients; and

(2) under the proximate supervision of a practitioner.

(f) A holder of a student permit shall meet in person at least one (1) time each working day with the permit holder's supervising practitioner or a designated respiratory care practitioner to review the permit holder's clinical activities. The supervising practitioner or a designated respiratory care practitioner shall review and countersign the entries that the permit holder makes in a patient's medical record not more than seven (7) calendar days after the permit holder makes the entries.

(g) A supervising practitioner may not supervise at one (1) time more than three (3) holders of student permits issued under this section.

(h) A student permit expires on the earliest of the following:

(1) The date the permit holder is issued a license under this article.

(2) The date the committee disapproves the permit holder's application for a license under this article.

(3) The date the permit holder ceases to be a student in good



1 standing in a respiratory care program approved by the
2 committee. The graduation of a student permit holder from a
3 respiratory care program approved by the committee does not
4 cause the student permit to expire under this subdivision.

5 (4) Sixty (60) days after the date that the permit holder graduates
6 from a respiratory care program approved by the committee.

7 (5) The date that the permit holder is notified that the permit
8 holder has failed the licensure examination.

9 (6) Two (2) years after the date of issuance.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Public Health, to which was referred House Bill 1254, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 4, after line 18, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 6. IC 25-34.5-2-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) Each applicant for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner must present satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

(1) does not have a conviction for:

- (A) an act that would constitute a ground for disciplinary sanction under IC 25-1-9; or
- (B) a crime that has a direct bearing on the practitioner's ability to practice competently;

(2) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action initiated by the licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the applicant was unable to practice as a respiratory care practitioner without endangering the public; and

(3) has either:

(A) **before January 1, 2028**, passed a respiratory care practitioner licensing or certification examination approved by the board; or

(B) **after December 31, 2027, successfully completed both portions of the registered respiratory therapist examination, administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care or its successor organization.**

(b) Each applicant for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner must submit proof to the committee of the applicant's:

(1) graduation from a school or program of respiratory care that meets standards set by the board;

(2) completion of a United States military training program in respiratory care; or

(3) completion of sufficient postsecondary education to be credentialed by a national respiratory care practitioner organization approved by the committee.

(c) At the time of making application, each applicant must pay a fee determined by the board after consideration of a recommendation of the committee.

SECTION 7. IC 25-34.5-2-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.177-2015,

HB 1254—LS 6889/DI 148



SECTION 75, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) Except as provided in section 11 of this chapter, the committee shall issue a license to each applicant who

~~(1) successfully passes the examination provided in section 12 of this chapter; and~~

~~(2) meets the requirements of section 8 of this chapter.~~

(b) Subject to IC 25-1-2-6(e), a license issued under this section expires on the last day of the regular renewal cycle established under IC 25-1-5-4.

SECTION 8. IC 25-34.5-2-10.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.149-2022, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.1. (a) The committee shall issue a temporary permit to a person to practice respiratory care or to profess to be a respiratory care practitioner, not more than thirty (30) days after the application is filed and completed, if the person pays a fee and:

(1) has:

(A) a valid license or certificate to practice from another state; and

(B) applied for a license from the committee;

(2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify respiratory care practitioners but is credentialed by a national respiratory care practitioner association approved by the committee, and the person has applied for a license from the committee; or

(3) has:

~~(A) been approved by the committee to take the next examination; and~~

~~(B) graduated from a school or program approved by the committee; is qualified to take the examination by being a graduate of a school or program of respiratory care that meets standards set by the board.~~

(b) A temporary permit expires the earlier of:

(1) the date the person holding the permit is issued a license under this article; or

(2) the date the committee disapproves the person's license application.

(c) The committee may renew a temporary permit if the person holding the permit was scheduled to take the ~~next~~ examination and:

(1) did not take the examination; and

(2) shows good cause for not taking the examination.

(d) A permit renewed under subsection (c) expires on the date the person holding the permit receives the results from the ~~next~~



examination given after the permit was issued.

SECTION 9. IC 25-34.5-2-12 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. See: 12: (a) Examinations of applicants for licensure under this article shall be held at least semiannually on dates set by the board.

(b) An examination under this section must include a written examination that tests the following:

- (1) The applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences as they relate to the practice of respiratory care.
- (2) Other subjects that the committee considers useful to test an applicant's fitness to practice respiratory care.
- (c) An otherwise qualified applicant who fails an examination and is refused licensure may take another scheduled examination upon payment of an additional fee set by the board under rules adopted under section 7 of this chapter.

SECTION 10. IC 25-34.5-2-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.152-2024, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The committee shall issue a student permit to an individual if the individual does the following:

- (1) Submits the appropriate application to the committee.
- (2) Pays the fee established by the board.
- (3) Submits written proof to the committee that the individual is a student in good standing in a respiratory care school or program that: ~~has been~~:
 - (A) ~~has been~~ approved by the committee for purposes of section 8(b)(1) of this chapter;
 - (B) ~~approved by the committee for purposes of section 10.1(a)(3)(B) is described in section 10.1(a)(3) of this chapter; or~~
 - (C) ~~has been~~ otherwise approved by the committee.
- (4) Submits satisfactory evidence that the individual:
 - (A) does not have a conviction described in section 8(a)(1) of this chapter; and
 - (B) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action described in section 8(a)(2) of this chapter.
- (b) The committee shall issue a student permit as soon as it is reasonably practicable after an individual fulfills the requirements of subsection (a).
- (c) An individual who holds a student permit may only perform respiratory care procedures that have been part of a course:
 - (1) the individual has successfully completed in the respiratory care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and
 - (2) for which the successful completion has been documented and



that is available upon request to the committee.

(d) The committee may expand the list of respiratory care procedures that an individual may perform under the individual's student permit to include additional respiratory care procedures that have been part of a course:

- (1) that the individual has successfully completed in the respiratory care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and
- (2) for which the individual's successful completion has been documented.

Upon request by the committee, the individual shall provide documentation of the successful completion of a course described in this subsection.

(e) The procedures permitted under subsections (c) and (d) may be performed only:

- (1) on patients who are not critical care patients; and
- (2) under the proximate supervision of a practitioner.

(f) A holder of a student permit shall meet in person at least one (1) time each working day with the permit holder's supervising practitioner or a designated respiratory care practitioner to review the permit holder's clinical activities. The supervising practitioner or a designated respiratory care practitioner shall review and countersign the entries that the permit holder makes in a patient's medical record not more than seven (7) calendar days after the permit holder makes the entries.

(g) A supervising practitioner may not supervise at one (1) time more than three (3) holders of student permits issued under this section.

(h) A student permit expires on the earliest of the following:

- (1) The date the permit holder is issued a license under this article.
- (2) The date the committee disapproves the permit holder's application for a license under this article.
- (3) The date the permit holder ceases to be a student in good standing in a respiratory care program approved by the committee. The graduation of a student permit holder from a respiratory care program approved by the committee does not cause the student permit to expire under this subdivision.
- (4) Sixty (60) days after the date that the permit holder graduates from a respiratory care program approved by the committee.
- (5) The date that the permit holder is notified that the permit holder has failed the licensure examination.
- (6) Two (2) years after the date of issuance.".

and when so amended that said bill do pass.



(Reference is to HB 1254 as introduced.)

BARRETT

Committee Vote: yeas 13, nays 0.

HB 1254—LS 6889/DI 148

