
HOUSE BILL No. 1254

AM125403 has been incorporated into January 13, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Various dental matters; respiratory care.

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HB 1254—LS 6889/DI 148



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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.

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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

HB 1254—LS 6889/DI 148



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1 request 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
6 with IC 25-14-1 necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter,
7 the examination of dental hygienists, **the 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
26 than two (2) years of eight (8) months each; **or**

27 **(B) dental college or university in a foreign country with**
28 **a degree that is equal to at least a doctorate in Indiana**
29 **of:**

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

31 **(ii) dental medicine;**

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

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

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

37 **(5) if the applicant is a graduate of a dental college or**
38 **university described in subdivision (2), must submit the**
39 **following to the board:**

40 **(A) The applicant's academic transcripts for review by**
41 **the board, including an English translation of the**
42 **transcript if the transcript is not in English.**

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- 1 **(B) A satisfactory credential verification assessment by:**
- 2 **(i) the board;**
- 3 **(ii) an organization that is a member of the National**
- 4 **Association of Credential Evaluation Services; or**
- 5 **(iii) any other organization approved by the board.**

6 SECTION 4. IC 25-13-1-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.35-2020,
 7 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 8 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.7. (a) A dental hygienist or dental assistant (as
 9 defined in IC 25-14-1-1.5(4)) may administer nitrous oxide under the
 10 direct supervision of a licensed dentist if the dental hygienist or dental
 11 assistant has:

- 12 (1) **either:**
- 13 **(A) been employed in a dental practice for at least one (1)**
- 14 year; or
- 15 **(B) has graduated from a program:**
- 16 **(i) accredited by the Commission on Dental**
- 17 Accreditation of the American Dental Association; **or**
- 18 **(ii) approved by the board;**
- 19 (2) satisfactorily completed a three (3) hour didactic nitrous
 20 oxide administration course **that:**
- 21 **(A) containing contains** curriculum on pharmacology,
 22 biochemistry, anatomy of nitrous oxide administration,
 23 emergency procedures, and the mechanics of operating a
 24 nitrous unit; **and**
- 25 **(B) is** accredited by the Commission on Dental
 26 Accreditation of the American Dental Association **or**
 27 **approved by the board;** and
- 28 (3) demonstrated clinical competency on at least five (5) patients
 29 under the direct supervision of a licensed Indiana dentist whose
 30 license is in good standing.
- 31 (b) The licensed Indiana dentist supervising the clinical
 32 competency under subsection (a)(3) shall provide to the dental
 33 hygienist or dental assistant a signed affidavit certifying the
 34 competency.
- 35 (c) Upon receipt of the affidavit provided to a dental hygienist or
 36 dental assistant under subsection (b), the provider of an educational
 37 program or curriculum described in subsection (a)(2) shall issue a
 38 certificate of completion to the dental hygienist or dental assistant. The
 39 certificate of completion must be publicly displayed in the dental office
 40 of the dental hygienist or dental assistant.
- 41 (d) Before permitting a dental hygienist or dental assistant to

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1 administer nitrous oxide, the supervising dentist shall:

- 2 (1) verify that the dental hygienist or dental assistant has
 3 completed the requirements of subsection (a);
 4 (2) determine the maximum percent-dosage of nitrous oxide to
 5 be administered to the patient; and
 6 (3) ensure that any administration or monitoring of nitrous oxide
 7 by dental hygienists or dental assistants is done in accordance
 8 with relevant guidelines and standards developed by the
 9 American Dental Association or the American Academy of
 10 Pediatric Dentistry.

11 SECTION 5. IC 25-14-1-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.264-2013,
 12 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A person desiring to begin the practice of
 14 dentistry in Indiana shall procure from the board a license to practice
 15 dentistry in Indiana. Except as provided in section 4.5 of this chapter,
 16 to procure the license, the applicant must submit to the board proof of
 17 graduation from a dental college recognized by the board. The board
 18 may recognize dental schools accredited by the Commission on Dental
 19 Accreditation of the American Dental Association, if the board is
 20 satisfied that the recognition is consistent with the board's
 21 requirements. Every applicant must pass an examination administered
 22 by an entity approved by the board and, **except as provided in**
 23 **subsection (b)**, may not take the examination more than three (3)
 24 times.

25 **(b) The board may establish additional requirements for an**
 26 **applicant who has failed the examination at least three (3) times.**
 27 **The applicant must complete any additional requirements before**
 28 **the applicant may take the examination again.**

29 ~~(b)~~ (c) A fee paid under this article may not be refunded.

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

- 34 (1) does not have a conviction for:
 35 (A) an act that would constitute a ground for disciplinary
 36 sanction under IC 25-1-9; or
 37 (B) a crime that has a direct bearing on the practitioner's
 38 ability to practice competently;
 39 (2) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action initiated by
 40 the licensing or certification agency of another state or
 41 jurisdiction on the grounds that the applicant was unable to

HB 1254—LS 6889/DI 148



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1 practice as a respiratory care practitioner without endangering
 2 the public; and
 3 (3) has **either:**
 4 (A) **before January 1, 2028**, passed a respiratory care
 5 practitioner licensing or certification examination approved
 6 by the board; **or**
 7 (B) **after December 31, 2027, successfully completed**
 8 **both portions of the registered respiratory therapist**
 9 **examination, administered by the National Board for**
 10 **Respiratory Care or its successor organization.**
 11 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner
 12 must submit proof to the committee of the applicant's:
 13 (1) graduation from a school or program of respiratory care that
 14 meets standards set by the board;
 15 (2) completion of a United States military training program in
 16 respiratory care; or
 17 (3) completion of sufficient postsecondary education to be
 18 credentialed by a national respiratory care practitioner
 19 organization approved by the committee.
 20 (c) At the time of making application, each applicant must pay a
 21 fee determined by the board after consideration of a recommendation
 22 of the committee.
 23 SECTION 7. IC 25-34.5-2-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.177-2015,
 24 SECTION 75, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 25 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) Except as provided in section 11 of this
 26 chapter, the committee shall issue a license to each applicant who
 27 ~~(1) successfully passes the examination provided in section 12~~
 28 ~~of this chapter; and~~
 29 ~~(2)~~ meets the requirements of section 8 of this chapter.
 30 (b) Subject to IC 25-1-2-6(e), a license issued under this section
 31 expires on the last day of the regular renewal cycle established under
 32 IC 25-1-5-4.
 33 SECTION 8. IC 25-34.5-2-10.1, AS AMENDED BY
 34 P.L.149-2022, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 35 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.1. (a) The
 36 committee shall issue a temporary permit to a person to practice
 37 respiratory care or to profess to be a respiratory care practitioner, not
 38 more than thirty (30) days after the application is filed and completed,
 39 if the person pays a fee and:
 40 (1) has:
 41 (A) a valid license or certificate to practice from another

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1 state; and
 2 (B) applied for a license from the committee;
 3 (2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify
 4 respiratory care practitioners but is credentialed by a national
 5 respiratory care practitioner association approved by the
 6 committee, and the person has applied for a license from the
 7 committee; or
 8 (3) has:
 9 (A) been approved by the committee to take the next
 10 examination; and
 11 (B) graduated from a school or program approved by the
 12 committee: **is qualified to take the examination by being**
 13 **a graduate of a school or program of respiratory care**
 14 **that meets standards set by the board.**
 15 (b) A temporary permit expires the earlier of:
 16 (1) the date the person holding the permit is issued a license
 17 under this article; or
 18 (2) the date the committee disapproves the person's license
 19 application.
 20 (c) The committee may renew a temporary permit if the person
 21 holding the permit was scheduled to take the ~~next~~ examination and:
 22 (1) did not take the examination; and
 23 (2) shows good cause for not taking the examination.
 24 (d) A permit renewed under subsection (c) expires on the date the
 25 person holding the permit receives the results from the ~~next~~
 26 examination given after the permit was issued.
 27 SECTION 9. IC 25-34.5-2-12 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 28 1, 2026]. Sec. 12: (a) Examinations of applicants for licensure under
 29 this article shall be held at least semiannually on dates set by the board:
 30 (b) An examination under this section must include a written
 31 examination that tests the following:
 32 (1) The applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences
 33 as they relate to the practice of respiratory care:
 34 (2) Other subjects that the committee considers useful to test an
 35 applicant's fitness to practice respiratory care:
 36 (c) An otherwise qualified applicant who fails an examination and
 37 is refused licensure may take another scheduled examination upon
 38 payment of an additional fee set by the board under rules adopted under
 39 section 7 of this chapter.
 40 SECTION 10. IC 25-34.5-2-14, AS AMENDED BY
 41 P.L.152-2024, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

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HB 1254—LS 6889/DI 148



- 1 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The committee shall issue
 2 a student permit to an individual if the individual does the following:
 3 (1) Submits the appropriate application to the committee.
 4 (2) Pays the fee established by the board.
 5 (3) Submits written proof to the committee that the individual is
 6 a student in good standing in a respiratory care school or
 7 program that: ~~has been:~~
 8 (A) **has been** approved by the committee for purposes of
 9 section 8(b)(1) of this chapter;
 10 (B) ~~approved by the committee for purposes of section~~
 11 ~~10.1(a)(3)(B) is described in section 10.1(a)(3)~~ of this
 12 chapter; or
 13 (C) **has been** otherwise approved by the committee.
 14 (4) Submits satisfactory evidence that the individual:
 15 (A) does not have a conviction described in section 8(a)(1)
 16 of this chapter; and
 17 (B) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action
 18 described in section 8(a)(2) of this chapter.
 19 (b) The committee shall issue a student permit as soon as it is
 20 reasonably practicable after an individual fulfills the requirements of
 21 subsection (a).
 22 (c) An individual who holds a student permit may only perform
 23 respiratory care procedures that have been part of a course:
 24 (1) the individual has successfully completed in the respiratory
 25 care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and
 26 (2) for which the successful completion has been documented
 27 and that is available upon request to the committee.
 28 (d) The committee may expand the list of respiratory care
 29 procedures that an individual may perform under the individual's
 30 student permit to include additional respiratory care procedures that
 31 have been part of a course:
 32 (1) that the individual has successfully completed in the
 33 respiratory care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and
 34 (2) for which the individual's successful completion has been
 35 documented.
 36 Upon request by the committee, the individual shall provide
 37 documentation of the successful completion of a course described in
 38 this subsection.
 39 (e) The procedures permitted under subsections (c) and (d) may be
 40 performed only:
 41 (1) on patients who are not critical care patients; and

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- 1 (2) under the proximate supervision of a practitioner.
- 2 (f) A holder of a student permit shall meet in person at least one
- 3 (1) time each working day with the permit holder's supervising
- 4 practitioner or a designated respiratory care practitioner to review the
- 5 permit holder's clinical activities. The supervising practitioner or a
- 6 designated respiratory care practitioner shall review and countersign
- 7 the entries that the permit holder makes in a patient's medical record
- 8 not more than seven (7) calendar days after the permit holder makes the
- 9 entries.
- 10 (g) A supervising practitioner may not supervise at one (1) time
- 11 more than three (3) holders of student permits issued under this section.
- 12 (h) A student permit expires on the earliest of the following:
- 13 (1) The date the permit holder is issued a license under this
- 14 article.
- 15 (2) The date the committee disapproves the permit holder's
- 16 application for a license under this article.
- 17 (3) The date the permit holder ceases to be a student in good
- 18 standing in a respiratory care program approved by the
- 19 committee. The graduation of a student permit holder from a
- 20 respiratory care program approved by the committee does not
- 21 cause the student permit to expire under this subdivision.
- 22 (4) Sixty (60) days after the date that the permit holder graduates
- 23 from a respiratory care program approved by the committee.
- 24 (5) The date that the permit holder is notified that the permit
- 25 holder has failed the licensure examination.
- 26 (6) Two (2) years after the date of issuance.

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