

June 2011

Certification Corner

Q: What can you tell me about the May 17 New York lobby day on the certification bill at the legislature?

A: We learned a lot from the New York lobby day and we were fortunate to have about 40 IAHCSSMM members attend. Our certification legislation in the Assembly has been assigned to the Higher Education Committee. The Chair of this committee does not want to create any new professions to be certified or licensed; therefore, we have a very slim chance of getting the bill out of this committee. Even though the bill amends the public health code and the department of health is the enforcer, it is not likely that we will get the bill moved to the Health Committee this year. Our Senate sponsor, Senator Mark Grisanti, is very excited and passionate about our bill. He is determined to get our bill to move in the Senate.



**Government
Affairs Director
Josephine (Jo) Colacci**

We made a couple of language changes to the legislation in order to appease certain organizations. The Association of perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) asked us to insert the following statement: "Central sterile supply personnel will work in collaboration with nursing." Legislators did not like this language, so we changed it to reflect what is already in the existing nursing code and added Central Sterile Supply personnel. The actual amended language reads as follows: "There shall be working relationships among medical staff, nursing staff, and Central Sterile Supply personnel to assure that all patient care needs are met."

Additionally, we added a grandfathering clause. We did this because the unions and some legislators believed that the bill would create job loss. The grandfathering clause exempts Central Sterile Supply personnel who have worked for ten years or more from having to take the certification exam (they will, however, be required to complete annual continuing education requirements).

Overall, it was clear when speaking with staff and/or legislators about our issue that they all believe that this is something that should be in law. We submitted an opinion/editorial on this issue, written by one of our members, to the Buffalo News in hopes of attracting media attention. The New York legislature ends June 20 and does not reconvene until January 2012.

Q: What is the status of the New York certification legislation?



June 2011

A: The New York certification bill in the Senate ([S.5155-a](#)) passed the Higher Education Committee on June 7 with no negative votes, and with one member voting "without recommendation." Without recommendation means that this person was not voting yes or no. There were no memos of opposition filed on our bill and the NY State Department of Education supports the bill.

Unfortunately, the New York Senate will not bring the bill up for a floor vote before they adjourn on June 20. The New York Senate leadership reached out to the Assembly leadership to find out if the Assembly would pass the bill before adjournment. The Assembly leadership will not pass the bill this legislative session and because of that the Senate will not bring the bill up for a floor vote. Both chambers have a lot of legislation to pass within a couple of days and because the Senate knows the Assembly will not pass the bill, the Senate did not want to spend time on legislation that will not pass both chambers. Therefore, we will introduce the legislation again in 2012. During the off session, we will be working on gathering more letters of support from other associations and working with Assembly leadership to get the bill in a better position for passage next year.

In other developments, we recently learned that Governor Andrew Cuomo appointed our Assembly sponsor, Assemblyman Bing, as Special Deputy Superintendent of the New York State Liquidation Bureau, NYLB. The NYLB is a 100-year old entity, which protects policyholders and creditors of insurance companies that have been declared impaired or insolvent.

Assemblyman Bing will finish out this legislative session, but will not return in 2012. Therefore, we will be seeking a new Assembly sponsor for the 2012 legislative session.