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## Health Care & Wellness Committee

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### HB 1640

**Brief Description:** Concerning respiratory care practitioners.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Green, Hinkle, Cody and Moeller.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expands the types of practitioners under whose order and direction a respiratory care practitioner may practice.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 2/9/11

**Staff:** Jim Morishima (786-7191).

**Background:**

A respiratory care practitioner (RCP) works with patients who have deficiencies and abnormalities affecting the cardiopulmonary system and associated systems. A RCP must be licensed and registered in order to practice, unless exempted, and must be under the order and qualified medical direction of a Physician.

The practice of respiratory care covers an array of procedures, including: (1) the administration of prescribed medical gases; (2) postural drainage, chest percussion, and vibration; and (3) the insertion of devices to draw, analyze, infuse, or monitor pressure in blood as prescribed by a Physician or an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP).

**Summary of Bill:**

The types of practitioners under whose order and direction a RCP may practice are expanded to "health care practitioners" instead of "Physicians." "Health care practitioner" is defined to include:

- Physicians;
- Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; and

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

- The following professions acting within the scope of their respective licenses:
  - Podiatric Physicians and Surgeons;
  - ARNPs;
  - Naturopaths;
  - Physician Assistants; and
  - Osteopathic Physician Assistants.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.