

(3) Provide for a requirement to ensure continued competency in the practice of respiratory care; and

(4) Provide disciplinary procedures for respiratory care practitioners.

(b) The qualifications required of an applicant for certification by the Board as a respiratory care practitioner shall include requirements established and approved by:

(1) The Maryland Thoracic Society;

(2) The Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Respiratory Care; and

(3) The Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Anesthesiology.

(c) After July 1, 1989, an individual shall be certified by the Board before the person may practice respiratory care in this State.

(d) This section does not limit the right of an individual to practice a health occupation that the individual is authorized to practice under this article.

(E) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(II) "EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM" MEANS A RESPIRATORY CARE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

(III) "VETERAN" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

1. HAS SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES;

2. HAS BEEN HONORABLY DISCHARGED; AND

3. MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(IV) "VETERANS' PROGRAM" MEANS A ~~HOSPITAL-BASED VETERANS' HIRING~~ VETERAN'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR QUALIFIED VETERANS IN RESPIRATORY CARE WHO ARE WORKING IN HOSPITALS.

(2) SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO IS ~~EMPLOYED~~ IN A VETERANS' PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

~~(3) A VETERANS' PROGRAM MAY ACCEPT FOR EMPLOYMENT A VETERAN WHO:~~

~~(I) APPLIES TO THE PROGRAM WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE VETERAN'S HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES;~~

~~(II) HAS PRACTICED RESPIRATORY CARE FOR AT LEAST 2,000 HOURS IN THE COURSE OF THE VETERAN'S ACTIVE DUTY; AND~~