AN ACT to renumber and amend 448.04 (1) (i); and to create 448.04 (1) (i) 3. of the statutes; relating to: temporary certificates to practice respiratory care.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a person may not practice respiratory care unless the person is certified by the Medical Examining Board (board). An applicant is eligible for certification if the applicant has graduated from a school with an accredited program in respiratory care and passes an examination. Current law also permits the board to issue a temporary certificate to an individual who has satisfied the graduation requirement but has not yet passed the examination. A temporary certificate may be issued for up to one year, and may not be renewed.

This bill permits the board to issue a temporary certificate, nonrenewable and valid for 3 months, to a person who pays a fee and submits an application and verification that the person has passed the National Board for Respiratory Care’s certified respiratory therapy technician examination. The person must also submit a description of any professional discipline to which the person has been subjected.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:
SECTION 1. 448.04 (1) (i) of the statutes is renumbered 448.04 (1) (i) 1. amended to read:

448.04 (1) (i) 1. The board may certify as a respiratory care practitioner any individual who completes an application, meets the qualifications for certification under s. 448.05 (5r), and passes the examination required under s. 448.05 (6).

2. The board may, by rule, provide for a temporary certificate to practice respiratory care to be granted to any individual who completes an application and meets the requirements of s. 448.05 (5r) but has not passed the examination required by s. 448.05 (6). Temporary certificates under this subdivision may be issued for a period not to exceed one year and may not be renewed.

SECTION 2. 448.04 (1) (i) 3. of the statutes is created to read:

448.04 (1) (i) 3. The board may issue a temporary certificate to practice respiratory care to an individual who submits to the board an application, the fee specified in s. 440.05 (1) (a), written verification that the applicant has passed the national board for respiratory care's certified respiratory therapy technician examination, evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant meets the requirements of s. 448.05 (5r), and evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is certified to practice respiratory care in another state. The board may not issue a temporary certificate under this subdivision to an individual who has previously been issued a temporary certificate under this subdivision. If an applicant for a temporary certificate under this subdivision has been subjected to professional discipline as a result of the applicant's practice of respiratory care, the applicant shall submit to the board a description of the circumstances of the
discipline. A temporary certificate under this subdivision may be issued for a period not to exceed 3 months and may not be renewed.