

Rittner  
McLaren  
Kibbie

SSB-1174  
State Government

Succeeded By  
SENATE FILE SE/HF 467  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON KING)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to licensure requirements for physician  
2 assistants and providing an effective date.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section. 1. Section 147.74, subsection 16, Code 2001, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 16. A physician assistant ~~registered-or~~ licensed under  
4 chapter 148C may use the words "physician assistant" after the  
5 person's name or signify the same by the use of the letters  
6 "P. A." after the person's name.

7 Sec. 2. Section 147.80, subsection 5, Code 2001, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 5. Application for a license to practice as a physician  
10 assistant, issuance of a license to practice as a physician  
11 assistant issued upon the basis of an examination given or  
12 approved by the board of physician assistant examiners,  
13 issuance of a license to practice as a physician assistant  
14 issued under a reciprocal agreement, renewal of a license to  
15 practice as a physician assistant, temporary license to  
16 practice as a physician assistant, ~~registration-of-a-physician~~  
17 ~~assistant, temporary-registration-of-a-physician-assistant,~~  
18 ~~renewal-of-a-registration-of-a-physician-assistant.~~

19 Sec. 3. Section 147.107, subsection 5, Code 2001, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 5. Notwithstanding subsection 1 and any other provision of  
22 this section to the contrary, a physician may delegate the  
23 function of prescribing drugs, controlled substances, and  
24 medical devices to a physician assistant licensed pursuant to  
25 chapter 148C. When delegated prescribing occurs, the  
26 supervising physician's name shall be used, recorded, or  
27 otherwise indicated in connection with each individual  
28 prescription so that the individual who dispenses or  
29 administers the prescription knows under whose delegated  
30 authority the physician assistant is prescribing. Rules  
31 relating to the authority of physician assistants to prescribe  
32 drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices pursuant to  
33 this subsection shall be adopted by the board of physician  
34 assistant examiners, after consultation with the board of  
35 medical examiners and the board of pharmacy examiners, as soon

1 as possible after July 1, 1991. The rules shall be reviewed  
 2 and approved by the physician assistant rules review group  
 3 created under subsection 7 and shall be adopted in final form  
 4 by January 1, 1993. However, the rules shall prohibit the  
 5 prescribing of schedule II controlled substances which are  
 6 listed as stimulants or depressants pursuant to chapter 124.  
 7 If rules are not reviewed and approved by the physician  
 8 assistant rules review group created under subsection 7 and  
 9 adopted in final form by January 1, 1993, a physician  
 10 assistant may prescribe drugs as a delegated act of a  
 11 supervising physician under rules adopted by the board of  
 12 physician assistant examiners ~~and-subject-to-the-rules-review~~  
 13 ~~process-established-in-section-148C-7~~. The board of physician  
 14 assistant examiners shall be the only board to regulate the  
 15 practice of physician assistants relating to prescribing and  
 16 supplying prescription drugs, controlled substances and  
 17 medical devices, ~~notwithstanding-section-148C-6A~~.

18 Sec. 4. Section 148.13, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2001,  
 19 are amended by striking the subsections.

20 Sec. 5. Section 148C.1, Code 2001, is amended by striking  
 21 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- 22 148C.1 DEFINITIONS.
- 23 1. "Approved program" means a program for the education of  
 24 physician assistants which has been accredited by the  
 25 committee on allied health education and accreditation, by its  
 26 successor, the commission on accreditation of allied health  
 27 educational programs, or by its successor, the accreditation  
 28 review commission on education for the physician assistant, or  
 29 its successor.
- 30 2. "Board" means the board of physician assistant  
 31 examiners.
- 32 3. "Licensed physician assistant" means a person who is  
 33 licensed as a physician assistant by the board to practice  
 34 medicine with the supervision of one or more physicians.
- 35 4. "Physician" means a person who is currently licensed in

1 Iowa and actively engaged in the practice of medicine and  
2 surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or osteopathy.

3 5. "Physician assistant" means a person who has graduated  
4 from an approved program for physician assistants or surgeon  
5 assistants or a person who has passed the certifying  
6 examination administered by the national commission on  
7 certification of physician assistants or its successor.

8 Sec. 6. Section 148C.3, Code 2001, is amended by striking  
9 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 148C.3 LICENSURE.

11 1. The board shall adopt rules to govern the licensure of  
12 persons who qualify as physician assistants. An applicant for  
13 licensure shall submit the fee prescribed by the board and  
14 shall meet the requirements established by the board with  
15 respect to each of the following:

16 a. Academic qualifications, including evidence of  
17 graduation from an approved program. However, if the board  
18 determines that a person has sufficient knowledge and  
19 experience to qualify as a physician assistant, the board may  
20 approve an application for licensure submitted prior to July  
21 1, 2002, without requiring the applicant to have completed an  
22 approved program. On or after July 1, 2002, a physician  
23 assistant who is not yet licensed pursuant to this chapter  
24 shall be required to have graduated from an approved program.

25 b. Evidence of passing the national commission on the  
26 certification of physician assistants examination or its  
27 successor examination.

28 c. Hours of continuing medical education necessary to  
29 become or remain licensed.

30 2. Rules shall be adopted by the board pursuant to this  
31 chapter permitting licensed physicians to supervise licensed  
32 physician assistants.

33 3. A licensed physician assistant shall perform only those  
34 services for which the licensed physician assistant is  
35 qualified by training.

1 4. The board may issue an inactive license under  
2 conditions prescribed by rules adopted by the board.

3 Sec. 7. Section 148C.4, Code 2001, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 148C.4 SERVICES PERFORMED BY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

6 A physician assistant may perform medical services when the  
7 services are rendered under the supervision of the a licensed  
8 ~~physician or physicians specified in the physician assistant~~  
9 ~~license approved by the board.~~ A trainee physician assistant  
10 student may perform medical services when the services are  
11 rendered within the scope of an approved program.

12 Sec. 8. Section 148C.11, Code 2001, is amended to read as  
13 follows:

14 148C.11 PROHIBITION -- CRIME.

15 A person not ~~registered and~~ licensed as required by this  
16 chapter who practices as a physician assistant ~~without having~~  
17 ~~obtained the appropriate approval under this chapter,~~ is  
18 guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

19 Sec. 9. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS -- RULES. The board shall  
20 adopt new rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer chapter  
21 148C no later than January 1, 2002. The rules shall be  
22 designed to encourage the utilization of physician assistants  
23 in a manner that is consistent with the provision of quality  
24 health care and medical services for the citizens of Iowa  
25 through better utilization of available physicians and the  
26 development of sound programs for the education and training  
27 of skilled physician assistants well qualified to assist  
28 physicians in providing health care and medical services.

29 Sec. 10. Sections 148C.2, 148C.5A, 148C.6A, and 148C.7,  
30 Code 2001, are repealed.

31 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of  
32 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill modifies licensure requirements for physician  
35 assistants.

1 The bill eliminates provisions relating to registration as  
2 a physician assistant, and also eliminates the physician  
3 assistant rules review group established in Code section  
4 148C.7, which functions to review and either approve or  
5 disapprove proposed rules by the board of physician assistant  
6 examiners. The bill further eliminates provisions regarding  
7 the adoption of rules by December 31, 1988, relating to the  
8 eligibility of a physician to serve as a supervising  
9 physician, and regarding appeals to the board of medical  
10 examiners of decisions of the board of physician assistant  
11 examiners in a contested case involving discipline of a  
12 licensed physician assistant.

13 The bill provides for several changes to the definitions  
14 applicable to physician assistants pursuant to Code chapter  
15 148C. The bill provides that an approved program for the  
16 education of physician assistants refers to a program  
17 accredited by the committee on allied health education and  
18 accreditation, its successor, the commission on accreditation  
19 of allied health educational programs, its successor, the  
20 accreditation review commission on education for the physician  
21 assistant, or its successor, rather than pursuant to rules as  
22 currently defined. The bill also provides that a physician  
23 assistant refers to a person who has graduated from an  
24 approved physician assistant or surgeon assistant program, or  
25 a person who has passed the certifying examination  
26 administered by the national commission on certification of  
27 physician assistants or its successor, rather than the current  
28 definition providing for passing or completing a board-  
29 approved examination or program. The bill provides that a  
30 licensed physician assistant practices medicine with the  
31 supervision of physicians, as opposed to the current  
32 definition indicating a physician assistant practices under  
33 the supervision of physicians specified on the license.

34 The bill provides for modifications regarding requirements  
35 for licensure as a physician assistant consistent with the

1 revised definitions and elimination of registration as a  
 2 physician assistant. The bill provides that if the board  
 3 determines that a person has sufficient knowledge and  
 4 experience to qualify as a physician assistant, the board may  
 5 approve an application for licensure submitted prior to July  
 6 1, 2002, without requiring the completion of an approved  
 7 program, but that on or after July 1, 2002, a physician  
 8 assistant who is not yet licensed will be required to have  
 9 graduated from an approved program and have passed the  
 10 previously explained examination.

11 The bill further requires that the board of physician  
 12 assistant examiners adopt new rules relating to administration  
 13 of Code chapter 148C on or before January 1, 2002.

14 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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FILED MAR 15 '01

SENATE FILE 467  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1174)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to licensure requirements for physician  
2 assistants.

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SF 467

1 Section 1. Section 147.74, subsection 16, Code 2001, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 16. A physician assistant ~~registered-or~~ licensed under  
4 chapter 148C may use the words "physician assistant" after the  
5 person's name or signify the same by the use of the letters  
6 "P. A." after the person's name.

7 Sec. 2. Section 147.80, subsection 5, Code 2001, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 5. Application for a license to practice as a physician  
10 assistant, issuance of a license to practice as a physician  
11 assistant issued upon the basis of an examination given or  
12 approved by the board of physician assistant examiners,  
13 issuance of a license to practice as a physician assistant  
14 issued under a reciprocal agreement, renewal of a license to  
15 practice as a physician assistant, temporary license to  
16 practice as a physician assistant, ~~registration-of-a-physician~~  
17 ~~assistant,-temporary-registration-of-a-physician-assistant,-~~  
18 ~~renewal-of-a-registration-of-a-physician-assistant.~~

19 Sec. 3. Section 147.107, subsection 5, Code 2001, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 5. Notwithstanding subsection 1 and any other provision of  
22 this section to the contrary, a physician may delegate the  
23 function of prescribing drugs, controlled substances, and  
24 medical devices to a physician assistant licensed pursuant to  
25 chapter 148C. When delegated prescribing occurs, the  
26 supervising physician's name shall be used, recorded, or  
27 otherwise indicated in connection with each individual  
28 prescription so that the individual who dispenses or  
29 administers the prescription knows under whose delegated  
30 authority the physician assistant is prescribing. Rules  
31 relating to the authority of physician assistants to prescribe  
32 drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices pursuant to  
33 this subsection shall be adopted by the board of physician  
34 assistant examiners, after consultation with the board of  
35 medical examiners and the board of pharmacy examiners, as soon

1 as possible after July 1, 1991. The rules shall be reviewed  
2 and approved by the physician assistant rules review group  
3 created under subsection 7 and shall be adopted in final form  
4 by January 1, 1993. However, the rules shall prohibit the  
5 prescribing of schedule II controlled substances which are  
6 listed as stimulants or depressants pursuant to chapter 124.  
7 If rules are not reviewed and approved by the physician  
8 assistant rules review group created under subsection 7 and  
9 adopted in final form by January 1, 1993, a physician  
10 assistant may prescribe drugs as a delegated act of a  
11 supervising physician under rules adopted by the board of  
12 physician assistant examiners and subject to the rules review  
13 process established in section 148C.7. The board of physician  
14 assistant examiners shall be the only board to regulate the  
15 practice of physician assistants relating to prescribing and  
16 supplying prescription drugs, controlled substances and  
17 medical devices, ~~notwithstanding section 148C.6A.~~

18 Sec. 4. Section 148.13, subsection 4, Code 2001, is  
19 amended by striking the subsection.

20 Sec. 5. Section 148C.1, subsection 1, Code 2001, is  
21 amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu  
22 thereof the following:

23 1. "Approved program" means a program for the education of  
24 physician assistants which has been accredited by the American  
25 medical association's committee on allied health education and  
26 accreditation, by its successor, the commission on  
27 accreditation of allied health educational programs, or by its  
28 successor, the accreditation review commission on education  
29 for the physician assistant, or its successor.

30 Sec. 6. Section 148C.1, subsection 5, Code 2001, is  
31 amended to read as follows:

32 5. "Physician" means a person who is currently licensed in  
33 Iowa to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine  
34 and surgery, or osteopathy, and who is actively engaged in the  
35 practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and

1 surgery, or osteopathy in Iowa.

2 Sec. 7. Section 148C.3, Code 2001, is amended by striking  
3 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

4 148C.3 LICENSURE.

5 1. The board shall formulate guidelines and adopt rules,  
6 pursuant to section 148C.7, to govern the licensure of persons  
7 who qualify as physician assistants. An applicant for  
8 licensure shall submit the fee prescribed by the board and  
9 shall meet the requirements established by the board with  
10 respect to all of the following:

11 a. Academic qualifications, including evidence of  
12 graduation from an approved program. However, if the board  
13 determines that a person has sufficient knowledge and  
14 experience to qualify as a physician assistant, the board may  
15 approve an application for licensure without requiring the  
16 completion of an approved program.

17 b. Examination grades and evidence of passing the national  
18 commission on certification of physician assistants  
19 examination or an equivalent examination which the board  
20 approves.

21 c. Hours of continuing medical education necessary to  
22 remain licensed or eligible for licensure.

23 d. Submission of information to the board regarding the  
24 physician or physicians eligible to serve as a physician  
25 supervisor under rules of the board of medical examiners who  
26 have agreed to serve as the applicant's physician supervisor  
27 or supervisors.

28 2. The board may issue a temporary license under special  
29 circumstances and upon conditions prescribed by the board. A  
30 temporary license shall not exceed one year in duration and  
31 shall not be renewed more than once.

32 3. The applicant shall not submit and the board shall not  
33 approve an application for licensure which would result in a  
34 physician supervising more than two physician assistants at  
35 one time.

1 4. A licensed physician assistant shall perform only those  
2 services for which the licensed physician assistant is  
3 qualified by training and for which the licensed physician  
4 assistant has an eligible physician supervisor, and shall not  
5 perform a service that is not permitted by the board.

6 5. Rules shall be adopted pursuant to this chapter which  
7 will permit qualified practicing physicians to supervise  
8 licensed physician assistants at a free medical clinic on a  
9 temporary basis.

10 Sec. 8. Section 148C.11, Code 2001, is amended to read as  
11 follows:

12 148C.11 PROHIBITION -- CRIME.

13 A person not ~~registered-and~~ licensed as required by this  
14 chapter who practices as a physician assistant ~~without-having~~  
15 ~~obtained-the-appropriate-approval-under-this-chapter,~~ is  
16 guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

17 Sec. 9. Sections 148C.2, 148C.5A, and 148C.6A, Code 2001,  
18 are repealed.

19 EXPLANATION

20 This bill modifies licensure requirements for physician  
21 assistants.

22 The bill eliminates provisions relating to registration as  
23 a physician assistant, and incorporates requirements for  
24 physician assistant qualifications and identification of  
25 eligible physician supervisors within a single licensure  
26 process. The bill also eliminates provisions regarding  
27 appeals to the board of medical examiners of decisions of the  
28 board of physician assistant examiners in a contested case  
29 involving discipline of a licensed physician assistant.

30 The bill provides for changes to the definitions applicable  
31 to physician assistants pursuant to Code chapter 148C. The  
32 bill provides that an approved program for the education of  
33 physician assistants refers to a program accredited by the  
34 American medical association's committee on allied health  
35 education and accreditation, its successor, the commission on

1 accreditation of allied health educational programs, its  
2 successor, the accreditation review commission on education  
3 for the physician assistant, or its successor, rather than  
4 pursuant to rules as currently defined. The bill also  
5 provides that a physician refers to a person who is currently  
6 licensed in Iowa to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic  
7 medicine and surgery, or osteopathy, and who is actively  
8 engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic  
9 medicine and surgery, or osteopathy in Iowa.

10 The bill provides for modifications regarding requirements  
11 for licensure as a physician assistant consistent with the  
12 revised definitions and elimination of registration as a  
13 physician assistant.

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