

# House Study Bill 683

## Bill Text

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1 1 Section 1. Section [147.14](#), subsection 12, Code Supplement  
1 2 1999, is amended to read as follows:

1 3 12. For the board of physician assistant examiners,

~~three~~

1 4 five members licensed to practice as physician assistants, at  
1 5 least two of whom practice in counties with a population of  
1 6 less than fifty thousand, one member licensed to practice  
1 7 medicine and surgery who supervises a physician assistant, one  
1 8 member licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery  
1 9 who supervises a physician assistant, and two members who are  
1 10 not licensed to practice either medicine and surgery or  
1 11 osteopathic medicine and surgery or licensed as a physician  
1 12 assistant and who shall represent the general public. At  
1 13 least one of the physician members shall be in practice in a  
1 14 county with a population of less than fifty thousand. A  
1 15 majority of members of the board constitutes a quorum.

1 16 Sec. 2. Section [147.74](#), subsection 16, Code Supplement  
1 17 1999, is amended to read as follows:

1 18 16. A physician assistant

~~registered or~~

~~licensed under~~

1 19 chapter 148C may use the words "physician assistant" after the  
1 20 person's name or signify the same by the use of the letters  
1 21 "P. A." after the person's name.

1 22 Sec. 3. Section [147.80](#), subsection 5, Code 1999, is  
1 23 amended to read as follows:

1 24 5. Application for a license to practice as a physician  
1 25 assistant, issuance of a license to practice as a physician  
1 26 assistant issued upon the basis of an examination given or  
1 27 approved by the board of physician assistant examiners,  
1 28 issuance of a license to practice as a physician assistant  
1 29 issued under a reciprocal agreement, renewal of a license to  
1 30 practice as a physician assistant, temporary license to  
1 31 practice as a physician assistant

~~, registration of a physician~~

1 32

~~assistant, temporary registration of a physician assistant,~~

1 33

~~renewal of a registration of a physician assistant~~

1 34 Sec. 4. Section [147.107](#), subsection 5, Code 1999, is  
1 35 amended to read as follows:

2 1 5. Notwithstanding subsection 1 and any other provision of  
2 2 this section to the contrary, a physician may delegate the  
2 3 function of prescribing drugs, controlled substances, and  
2 4 medical devices to a physician assistant licensed pursuant to  
2 5 chapter 148C. When delegated prescribing occurs, the  
2 6 supervising physician's name shall be used, recorded, or

2 7 otherwise indicated in connection with each individual  
2 8 prescription so that the individual who dispenses or  
2 9 administers the prescription knows under whose delegated  
2 10 authority the physician assistant is prescribing. Rules  
2 11 relating to the authority of physician assistants to prescribe  
2 12 drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices pursuant to  
2 13 this subsection shall be adopted by the board of physician  
2 14 assistant examiners, after consultation with the board of  
2 15 medical examiners and the board of pharmacy examiners, as soon  
2 16 as possible after July 1, 1991. The rules shall be reviewed  
2 17 and approved by the physician assistant rules review group  
2 18 created under subsection 7 and shall be adopted in final form  
2 19 by January 1, 1993. However, the rules shall prohibit the  
2 20 prescribing of schedule II controlled substances which are  
2 21 listed as stimulants or depressants pursuant to chapter 124.  
2 22 If rules are not reviewed and approved by the physician  
2 23 assistant rules review group created under subsection 7 and  
2 24 adopted in final form by January 1, 1993, a physician  
2 25 assistant may prescribe drugs as a delegated act of a  
2 26 supervising physician under rules adopted by the board of  
2 27 physician assistant examiners

~~and subject to the rules review~~

2 28

~~process established in section 148C.7~~

- The board of physician

2 29 assistant examiners shall be the only board to regulate the  
2 30 practice of physician assistants relating to prescribing and  
2 31 supplying prescription drugs, controlled substances and  
2 32 medical devices, notwithstanding section 148C.6A.

2 33 Sec. 5. Section [148.13](#), subsections 1 and 4, Code 1999,  
2 34 are amended by striking the subsections.

2 35 Sec. 6. Section [148C.1](#), Code 1999, is amended by striking  
3 1 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

3 2 148C.1 DEFINITIONS.

3 3 1. "Approved program" means a program for the education of  
3 4 physician assistants which has been accredited by the  
3 5 committee on accreditation of allied health educational  
3 6 programs, by its successor, the commission on accreditation of  
3 7 allied health educational programs, or by its successor.

3 8 2. "Board" means the board of physician assistant  
3 9 examiners.

3 10 3. "Licensed physician assistant" means a person who is  
3 11 licensed as a physician assistant by the board to practice  
3 12 medicine with the supervision of one or more physicians.

3 13 4. "Physician" means a person who is currently licensed in  
3 14 Iowa to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine  
3 15 and surgery, or osteopathy.

3 16 5. "Physician assistant" means a person who has graduated  
3 17 from an approved physician assistant or surgeon assistant  
3 18 program or a person who has passed the certifying examination  
3 19 administered by the national commission on certification of  
3 20 physician assistants or its successor.

3 21 Sec. 7. Section [148C.3](#), Code 1999, is amended by striking  
3 22 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

3 23 148C.3 LICENSURE.

3 24 1. The board shall adopt rules to govern the licensure of  
3 25 persons who qualify as physician assistants. An applicant for  
3 26 licensure shall submit the fee prescribed by the board and  
3 27 shall meet the requirements established by the board with  
3 28 respect to each of the following:

3 29 a. Academic qualifications, including evidence of  
3 30 graduation from an approved program. However, if the board  
3 31 determines that a person has sufficient knowledge and  
3 32 experience to qualify as a physician assistant, the board may

3 33 approve an application for licensure submitted prior to July  
3 34 1, 2001, without requiring the applicant to have completed an  
3 35 approved program or to have passed the examination for  
4 1 physician assistants conducted by the national commission on  
4 2 the certification of physician assistants or its successor.  
4 3 On or after July 1, 2001, a physician assistant who is not yet  
4 4 licensed pursuant to this chapter shall be required to have  
4 5 graduated from an approved program or to have passed the  
4 6 examination for physician assistants conducted by the national  
4 7 commission on the certification of physician assistants or its  
4 8 successor.

4 9 b. Hours of continuing medical education necessary to  
4 10 become or remain licensed.

4 11 2. Rules shall be adopted by the board pursuant to this  
4 12 chapter permitting licensed physicians to supervise licensed  
4 13 physician assistants.

4 14 3. A licensed physician assistant shall perform only those  
4 15 services for which the licensed physician assistant is  
4 16 qualified by training.

4 17 4. The board may issue an inactive license under  
4 18 conditions prescribed by rules adopted by the board.

4 19 Sec. 8. Section [148C.4](#), Code 1999, is amended to read as  
4 20 follows:

4 21 148C.4 SERVICES PERFORMED BY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

4 22 A physician assistant may perform medical services when the  
4 23 services are rendered under the supervision of

~~the~~

~~a licensed~~

4 24 physician

~~or physicians specified in the physician assistant~~

~~4 25~~

~~license approved by the board~~

~~A~~

~~trainee~~

~~physician assistant~~

4 26 student may perform medical services when the services are  
4 27 rendered within the scope of an approved program.

4 28 Sec. 9. Section [148C.11](#), Code 1999, is amended to read as  
4 29 follows:

4 30 148C.11 PROHIBITION CRIME.

4 31 A person not

~~registered and~~

~~licensed as required by this~~

4 32 chapter who practices as a physician assistant

~~without having~~

~~4 33~~

~~obtained the appropriate approval under this chapter,~~

~~is~~

4 34 guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

4 35 Sec. 10. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS RULES. The board shall  
5 1 adopt new rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer chapter  
5 2 148C no later than January 1, 2001. The rules shall be  
5 3 designed to encourage the utilization of physician assistants  
5 4 in a manner that is consistent with the provision of quality  
5 5 health care and medical services for the citizens of Iowa  
5 6 through better utilization of available physicians and the  
5 7 development of sound programs for the education and training  
5 8 of skilled physician assistants well qualified to assist

5 9 physicians in providing health care and medical services.

5 10 Sec. 11. Sections 148C.2, 148C.5A, 148C.6A, and 148C.7,  
5 11 Code 1999, are repealed.

5 12 Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of  
5 13 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

5 14 EXPLANATION

5 15 This bill modifies licensure requirements for physician  
5 16 assistants.

5 17 The bill provides for an increase in the number of members  
5 18 of the board of physician assistant examiners to add two  
5 19 additional members licensed to practice as physician  
5 20 assistants. This increase results in a total of nine members  
5 21 serving on the board. The bill eliminates provisions relating  
5 22 to registration as a physician assistant, and also eliminates  
5 23 the physician assistant rules review group established in Code  
5 24 section 148C.7, which functions to review and either approve  
5 25 or disapprove proposed rules by the board of physician  
5 26 assistant examiners. The bill further eliminates provisions  
5 27 regarding the adoption of rules by December 31, 1988, relating  
5 28 to the eligibility of a physician to serve as a supervising  
5 29 physician, and regarding appeals to the board of medical  
5 30 examiners of decisions of the board of physician assistant  
5 31 examiners in a contested case involving discipline of a  
5 32 licensed physician assistant.

5 33 The bill provides for several changes to the definitions  
5 34 applicable to physician assistants pursuant to Code chapter  
5 35 148C. The bill provides that an approved physician assistant  
6 1 program refers to a program accredited by the committee on  
6 2 accreditation of allied health educational programs, its  
6 3 successor, the commission on accreditation of allied health  
6 4 educational programs, or its successor, rather than pursuant  
6 5 to rules as currently defined. The bill also provides that a  
6 6 physician assistant refers to a person who has graduated from  
6 7 an approved physician assistant or surgeon assistant program,  
6 8 or a person who has passed the certifying examination  
6 9 administered by the national commission on certification of  
6 10 physician assistants or its successor, rather than the current  
6 11 definition providing for passing or completing a board-  
6 12 approved examination or program. The bill provides that a  
6 13 licensed physician assistant practices medicine with the  
6 14 supervision of physicians, as opposed to the current  
6 15 definition indicating a physician assistant practices under  
6 16 the supervision of physicians specified on the license.

6 17 The bill provides for modifications regarding requirements  
6 18 for licensure as a physician assistant consistent with the  
6 19 revised definitions and elimination of registration as a  
6 20 physician assistant. The bill provides that if the board  
6 21 determines that a person has sufficient knowledge and  
6 22 experience to qualify as a physician assistant, the board may  
6 23 approve an application for licensure submitted prior to July  
6 24 1, 2001, without requiring the completion of an approved  
6 25 program or the passing of an examination, but that on or after  
6 26 July 1, 2001, a physician assistant who is not yet licensed  
6 27 will be required to have graduated from an approved program or  
6 28 have passed the previously explained examination.

6 29 The bill further requires that the board of physician  
6 30 assistant examiners adopt new rules relating to administration  
6 31 of Code chapter 148C on or before January 1, 2001.

6 32 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

6 33 LSB 5653HC 78

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