

FILED FEB 22 2000

SENATE FILE

2271

BY JOHNSON

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing licensure requirements for physician assistants
2 and providing an effective date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 2271
STATE GOVERNMENT

1 Section 1. Section 147.14, subsection 12, Code Supplement
2 1999, is amended to read as follows:

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

16 Sec. 2. Section 147.74, subsection 16, Code Supplement
17 1999, is amended to read as follows:

18 16. A physician assistant ~~registered-or~~ licensed under
19 chapter 148C may use the words "physician assistant" after the
20 person's name or signify the same by the use of the letters
21 "P. A." after the person's name.

22 Sec. 3. Section 147.80, subsection 5, Code 1999, is
23 amended to read as follows:

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

34 Sec. 4. Section 147.107, subsection 5, Code 1999, is
35 amended to read as follows:

1 5. Notwithstanding subsection 1 and any other provision of
2 this section to the contrary, a physician may delegate the
3 function of prescribing drugs, controlled substances, and
4 medical devices to a physician assistant licensed pursuant to
5 chapter 148C. When delegated prescribing occurs, the
6 supervising physician's name shall be used, recorded, or
7 otherwise indicated in connection with each individual
8 prescription so that the individual who dispenses or
9 administers the prescription knows under whose delegated
10 authority the physician assistant is prescribing. Rules
11 relating to the authority of physician assistants to prescribe
12 drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices pursuant to
13 this subsection shall be adopted by the board of physician
14 assistant examiners, after consultation with the board of
15 medical examiners and the board of pharmacy examiners, as soon
16 as possible after July 1, 1991. The rules shall be reviewed
17 and approved by the physician assistant rules review group
18 created under subsection 7 and shall be adopted in final form
19 by January 1, 1993. However, the rules shall prohibit the
20 prescribing of schedule II controlled substances which are
21 listed as stimulants or depressants pursuant to chapter 124.
22 If rules are not reviewed and approved by the physician
23 assistant rules review group created under subsection 7 and
24 adopted in final form by January 1, 1993, a physician
25 assistant may prescribe drugs as a delegated act of a
26 supervising physician under rules adopted by the board of
27 physician assistant examiners ~~and-subject-to-the-rules-review~~
28 ~~process-established-in-section-148C-7~~. The board of physician
29 assistant examiners shall be the only board to regulate the
30 practice of physician assistants relating to prescribing and
31 supplying prescription drugs, controlled substances and
32 medical devices, notwithstanding section 148C.6A.

33 Sec. 5. Section 148.13, subsections 1 and 4, Code 1999,
34 are amended by striking the subsections.

35 Sec. 6. Section 148C.1, Code 1999, is amended by striking

1 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

2 148C.1 DEFINITIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 148C.3 LICENSURE.

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

29 a. Academic qualifications, including evidence of
30 graduation from an approved program. However, if the board
31 determines that a person has sufficient knowledge and
32 experience to qualify as a physician assistant, the board may
33 approve an application for licensure submitted prior to July
34 1, 2001, without requiring the applicant to have completed an
35 approved program or to have passed the examination for

1 physician assistants conducted by the national commission on
2 the certification of physician assistants or its successor.
3 On or after July 1, 2001, a physician assistant who is not yet
4 licensed pursuant to this chapter shall be required to have
5 graduated from an approved program or to have passed the
6 examination for physician assistants conducted by the national
7 commission on the certification of physician assistants or its
8 successor.

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

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

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

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

19 Sec. 8. Section 148C.4, Code 1999, is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 148C.4 SERVICES PERFORMED BY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

22 A physician assistant may perform medical services when the
23 services are rendered under the supervision of the a licensed
24 physician or-physicians-specified-in-the-physician-assistant
25 license-approved-by-the-board. A trainee physician assistant
26 student may perform medical services when the services are
27 rendered within the scope of an approved program.

28 Sec. 9. Section 148C.11, Code 1999, is amended to read as
29 follows:

30 148C.11 PROHIBITION -- CRIME.

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

35 Sec. 10. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS -- RULES. The board shall

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

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

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

14 EXPLANATION

15 This bill modifies licensure requirements for physician
16 assistants.

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

33 The bill provides for several changes to the definitions
34 applicable to physician assistants pursuant to Code chapter
35 148C. The bill provides that an approved physician assistant

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

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

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

32 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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