

# Senate Study Bill 1174

## Bill Text

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1 1 Section. 1. Section [147.74](#), subsection 16, Code 2001, is  
1 2 amended to read as follows:  
1 3 16. A physician assistant

~~registered or~~

~~licensed under~~

1 4 chapter 148C may use the words "physician assistant" after the  
1 5 person's name or signify the same by the use of the letters  
1 6 "P. A." after the person's name.

1 7 Sec. 2. Section [147.80](#), subsection 5, Code 2001, is  
1 8 amended to read as follows:

1 9 5. Application for a license to practice as a physician  
1 10 assistant, issuance of a license to practice as a physician  
1 11 assistant issued upon the basis of an examination given or  
1 12 approved by the board of physician assistant examiners,  
1 13 issuance of a license to practice as a physician assistant  
1 14 issued under a reciprocal agreement, renewal of a license to  
1 15 practice as a physician assistant, temporary license to  
1 16 practice as a physician assistant

~~, registration of a physician~~

~~1 17~~

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

~~1 18~~

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

~~1 19 Sec. 3. Section [147.107](#), subsection 5, Code 2001, is  
1 20 amended to read as follows:~~

~~1 21 5. Notwithstanding subsection 1 and any other provision of  
1 22 this section to the contrary, a physician may delegate the  
1 23 function of prescribing drugs, controlled substances, and  
1 24 medical devices to a physician assistant licensed pursuant to  
1 25 chapter 148C. When delegated prescribing occurs, the  
1 26 supervising physician's name shall be used, recorded, or  
1 27 otherwise indicated in connection with each individual  
1 28 prescription so that the individual who dispenses or  
1 29 administers the prescription knows under whose delegated  
1 30 authority the physician assistant is prescribing. Rules  
1 31 relating to the authority of physician assistants to prescribe  
1 32 drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices pursuant to  
1 33 this subsection shall be adopted by the board of physician  
1 34 assistant examiners, after consultation with the board of  
1 35 medical examiners and the board of pharmacy examiners, as soon  
2 1 as possible after July 1, 1991. The rules shall be reviewed  
2 2 and approved by the physician assistant rules review group  
2 3 created under subsection 7 and shall be adopted in final form  
2 4 by January 1, 1993. However, the rules shall prohibit the  
2 5 prescribing of schedule II controlled substances which are  
2 6 listed as stimulants or depressants pursuant to chapter 124.  
2 7 If rules are not reviewed and approved by the physician  
2 8 assistant rules review group created under subsection 7 and  
2 9 adopted in final form by January 1, 1993, a physician~~

2 10 assistant may prescribe drugs as a delegated act of a  
2 11 supervising physician under rules adopted by the board of  
2 12 physician assistant examiners

~~and subject to the rules review~~

2 13

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

-. The board of physician

2 14 assistant examiners shall be the only board to regulate the  
2 15 practice of physician assistants relating to prescribing and  
2 16 supplying prescription drugs, controlled substances and  
2 17 medical devices

~~, notwithstanding section 148C.6A~~

2 18 Sec. 4. Section [148.13](#), subsections 1 and 4, Code 2001,  
2 19 are amended by striking the subsections.

2 20 Sec. 5. Section [148C.1](#), Code 2001, is amended by striking  
2 21 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

2 22 148C.1 DEFINITIONS.

2 23 1. "Approved program" means a program for the education of  
2 24 physician assistants which has been accredited by the  
2 25 committee on allied health education and accreditation, by its  
2 26 successor, the commission on accreditation of allied health  
2 27 educational programs, or by its successor, the accreditation  
2 28 review commission on education for the physician assistant, or  
2 29 its successor.

2 30 2. "Board" means the board of physician assistant  
2 31 examiners.

2 32 3. "Licensed physician assistant" means a person who is  
2 33 licensed as a physician assistant by the board to practice  
2 34 medicine with the supervision of one or more physicians.

2 35 4. "Physician" means a person who is currently licensed in  
3 1 Iowa and actively engaged in the practice of medicine and  
3 2 surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or osteopathy.

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

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

3 10 148C.3 LICENSURE.

3 11 1. The board shall adopt rules to govern the licensure of  
3 12 persons who qualify as physician assistants. An applicant for  
3 13 licensure shall submit the fee prescribed by the board and  
3 14 shall meet the requirements established by the board with  
3 15 respect to each of the following:

3 16 a. Academic qualifications, including evidence of  
3 17 graduation from an approved program. However, if the board  
3 18 determines that a person has sufficient knowledge and  
3 19 experience to qualify as a physician assistant, the board may  
3 20 approve an application for licensure submitted prior to July  
3 21 1, 2002, without requiring the applicant to have completed an  
3 22 approved program. On or after July 1, 2002, a physician  
3 23 assistant who is not yet licensed pursuant to this chapter  
3 24 shall be required to have graduated from an approved program.

3 25 b. Evidence of passing the national commission on the  
3 26 certification of physician assistants examination or its  
3 27 successor examination.

3 28 c. Hours of continuing medical education necessary to  
3 29 become or remain licensed.

3 30 2. Rules shall be adopted by the board pursuant to this  
3 31 chapter permitting licensed physicians to supervise licensed  
3 32 physician assistants.

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

4 1 4. The board may issue an inactive license under  
4 2 conditions prescribed by rules adopted by the board.  
4 3 Sec. 7. Section [148C.4](#), Code 2001, is amended to read as  
4 4 follows:

4 5 148C.4 SERVICES PERFORMED BY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

4 6 A physician assistant may perform medical services when the  
4 7 services are rendered under the supervision of

~~the~~

~~a licensed~~

4 8 physician

~~or physicians specified in the physician assistant~~

4 9

~~license approved by the board~~

~~A~~

~~trainee~~

~~physician assistant~~

4 10 student may perform medical services when the services are  
4 11 rendered within the scope of an approved program.

4 12 Sec. 8. Section [148C.11](#), Code 2001, is amended to read as  
4 13 follows:

4 14 148C.11 PROHIBITION CRIME.

4 15 A person not

~~registered and~~

~~licensed as required by this~~

4 16 chapter who practices as a physician assistant

~~without having~~

4 17

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

~~is~~

4 18 guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

4 19 Sec. 9. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS RULES. The board shall  
4 20 adopt new rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer chapter  
4 21 148C no later than January 1, 2002. The rules shall be  
4 22 designed to encourage the utilization of physician assistants  
4 23 in a manner that is consistent with the provision of quality  
4 24 health care and medical services for the citizens of Iowa  
4 25 through better utilization of available physicians and the  
4 26 development of sound programs for the education and training  
4 27 of skilled physician assistants well qualified to assist  
4 28 physicians in providing health care and medical services.

4 29 Sec. 10. Sections 148C.2, 148C.5A, 148C.6A, and 148C.7,  
4 30 Code 2001, are repealed.

4 31 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of  
4 32 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

4 33 EXPLANATION

4 34 This bill modifies licensure requirements for physician  
4 35 assistants.

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

5 9 physician, and regarding appeals to the board of medical  
5 10 examiners of decisions of the board of physician assistant  
5 11 examiners in a contested case involving discipline of a  
5 12 licensed physician assistant.

5 13 The bill provides for several changes to the definitions  
5 14 applicable to physician assistants pursuant to Code chapter  
5 15 148C. The bill provides that an approved program for the  
5 16 education of physician assistants refers to a program  
5 17 accredited by the committee on allied health education and  
5 18 accreditation, its successor, the commission on accreditation  
5 19 of allied health educational programs, its successor, the  
5 20 accreditation review commission on education for the physician  
5 21 assistant, or its successor, rather than pursuant to rules as  
5 22 currently defined. The bill also provides that a physician  
5 23 assistant refers to a person who has graduated from an  
5 24 approved physician assistant or surgeon assistant program, or  
5 25 a person who has passed the certifying examination  
5 26 administered by the national commission on certification of  
5 27 physician assistants or its successor, rather than the current  
5 28 definition providing for passing or completing a board-  
5 29 approved examination or program. The bill provides that a  
5 30 licensed physician assistant practices medicine with the  
5 31 supervision of physicians, as opposed to the current  
5 32 definition indicating a physician assistant practices under  
5 33 the supervision of physicians specified on the license.

5 34 The bill provides for modifications regarding requirements  
5 35 for licensure as a physician assistant consistent with the  
6 1 revised definitions and elimination of registration as a  
6 2 physician assistant. The bill provides that if the board  
6 3 determines that a person has sufficient knowledge and  
6 4 experience to qualify as a physician assistant, the board may  
6 5 approve an application for licensure submitted prior to July  
6 6 1, 2002, without requiring the completion of an approved  
6 7 program, but that on or after July 1, 2002, a physician  
6 8 assistant who is not yet licensed will be required to have  
6 9 graduated from an approved program and have passed the  
6 10 previously explained examination.

6 11 The bill further requires that the board of physician  
6 12 assistant examiners adopt new rules relating to administration  
6 13 of Code chapter 148C on or before January 1, 2002.

6 14 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

6 15 LSB 3106SC 79  
6 16 rn/cf/24