

**House File 2269 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2269  
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2125)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the use of the titles physician assistant and  
2 physician associate.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 147.74, subsection 17, Code 2026, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 17. A person who qualifies for licensure as a physician  
4 ~~assistant licensed associate~~ under chapter 148C may use the  
5 words "physician associate" after the person's name or  
6 signify the same by the use of the letters "P.A." after the  
7 person's name.

8 Sec. 2. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TITLE CHANGE.

9 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all  
10 references in the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code to  
11 "physician assistant" shall be revised to "physician associate".  
12 The terms "physician assistant", "physician associate", and  
13 "P.A." are synonymous, and all rights and responsibilities of  
14 a physician assistant under current law are unaffected by the  
15 change in title to "physician associate".

16 2. All persons or entities employing, coordinating treatment  
17 with, following orders from, training, educating, or contracting  
18 with a person licensed as a physician assistant or educating  
19 individuals in an accredited physician assistant or physician  
20 associate education program, including but not limited to a  
21 hospital or other health care facility, physician, third-party  
22 payor, the federal government, and malpractice insurance  
23 carriers, shall continue the relationship without interruption  
24 or alteration as a result of the change in title to "physician  
25 associate". A person or entity shall not discriminate against  
26 an individual in contracting with the individual, employment, or  
27 otherwise solely as a result of the individual's use of the title  
28 "physician associate".

29 3. During the time before the title "physician associate"  
30 enters common usage, a person eligible for licensure under  
31 chapter 148C may use the title "physician assistant", "physician  
32 associate", or "P.A.". A person or entity interacting with  
33 a person using the title "physician associate" is entitled to  
34 rely on the person having all rights and responsibilities of a  
35 physician assistant.

1 4. The change in title from "physician assistant" to  
2 "physician associate" does not expand or alter the scope of  
3 practice of a person licensed under chapter 148C.

4 5. Not later than January 1, 2027, each agency shall,  
5 as soon as practicable and in the most cost-efficient manner  
6 possible, make amendments to active versions of sub-regulatory  
7 guidance, documents, and forms to reflect the change in title  
8 from "physician assistant" to "physician associate".

9 Sec. 3. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE — TERMINOLOGY CHANGES.

10 1. The Code editor is directed to change all references  
11 to "physician assistant" and its derivatives to "physician  
12 associate" and its derivatives, as appropriate, wherever they  
13 appear in the Code, including in sections 90A.1, 90A.8, 96.5,  
14 124E.2, 135.1, 135.17, 135.24, 135.39D, 135.105D, 135.146,  
15 135.190A, 135.194, 135B.1, 135B.7, 135G.1, 135G.3, 135H.3,  
16 135J.1, 135P.1, 136A.2, 136C.3, 137.105, 139A.2, 139A.8, 139A.22,  
17 139A.35, 139A.41, 141A.1, 141A.5, 141A.6, 141A.7, 142C.8, 144.26,  
18 144.28, 144A.2, 144A.4, 144A.7A, 144B.1, 144B.5, 144B.6, 144D.1,  
19 144D.2, 144D.3, 144D.4, 144F.2, 147.1, 147.2, 147.13, 147.14,  
20 147.77, 147.107, 147.136, 147.136A, 147.138, 147A.1, 147A.8,  
21 147A.9, 147A.10, 147A.13, 148C.1, 148C.2, 148C.3, 148C.4, 148C.5,  
22 148C.8, 148C.9, 148C.11, 148C.13, 148F.7, 148G.1, 148H.4, 152.1,  
23 152B.1, 152C.9, 152D.4, 152D.7, 154C.7, 154D.4, 154F.2, 155A.3,  
24 155A.23, 189A.6, 225.9, 225.12, 225.15, 225.16, 228.1, 229.22,  
25 232.68, 232.71B, 232.78, 232.79, 232.95, 233.1, 234.22, 235A.13,  
26 237A.5, 237A.13, 249.3, 249A.4, 249A.4B, 249N.2, 252E.1, 256.222,  
27 272C.1, 272C.2C, 280.13C, 280.16, 280A.1, 321.34, 321.186,  
28 321.375, 321.446, 321J.7, 321J.11, 321L.2, 321L.2A, 411.5,  
29 462A.14A, 489.1101, 489.1102, 489.1105, 496C.2, 496C.4, 496C.7,  
30 514C.11, 514C.17, 514C.18, 514C.20, 514C.25, 514C.28, 514F.6,  
31 614.1, 622.10, 668A.1, 669.2, 702.8, 707A.1, 730.5, and 915.46.  
32 2. The Code editor is directed to make changes in any Code  
33 sections or other noncodified enactments amended or enacted by  
34 any other Act to correspond with the changes made in this Act  
35 if there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of

1 making the changes and the changes would not be contrary to or  
2 inconsistent with the purposes of this Act or any other Act.

3 Sec. 4. AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

4 Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 17A to the contrary,  
5 an agency may submit amendments to administrative rules in  
6 accordance with this Act to the administrative code editor to  
7 be updated editorially. Such amendments shall be limited to  
8 updating the term "physician assistant" and its derivatives to  
9 "physician associate" and corresponding derivatives.

10

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13

This bill relates to the usage of the titles "physician  
14 assistant" and "physician associate". The bill directs the  
15 Iowa Code editor to change all references to "physician  
16 assistant" throughout the Code and in any Code sections or other  
17 noncodified enactments amended or enacted by any other bill to  
18 "physician associate". The bill does not change the rights,  
19 responsibilities, or scope of practice of a person licensed as  
20 a physician assistant. The bill prohibits a person with a  
21 business relationship with a physician assistant from altering  
22 that relationship as a result of the title change to "physician  
23 associate". The bill allows a person who qualifies for licensure  
24 under Code chapter 148C (physician assistants), and persons  
25 licensed under Code chapter 148C, to use the title "physician  
26 assistant" or "physician associate" during the time before the  
27 use of the title "physician associate" becomes common. The bill  
28 requires agencies to update active versions of sub-regulatory  
29 guidance, documents, and forms to reflect the changes in the bill  
30 by January 1, 2027.

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The bill allows an agency to submit amendments to the  
32 administrative code editor to editorially update references in  
33 rules to "physician assistant" to "physician associate".