

Senate File 467 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 467

BY WARME

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants,
- 2 and making penalties applicable.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 147.1, subsections 3 and 6, Code 2025, are
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. "Licensed" or "certified", when applied to a physician
4 and surgeon, podiatric physician, osteopathic physician and
5 surgeon, genetic counselor, physician assistant, anesthesiologist
6 assistant, psychologist, chiropractor, nurse, dentist, dental
7 hygienist, dental assistant, optometrist, speech pathologist,
8 audiologist, pharmacist, physical therapist, physical therapist
9 assistant, occupational therapist, occupational therapy
10 assistant, orthotist, prosthetist, pedorthist, respiratory
11 care practitioner, practitioner of cosmetology arts and
12 sciences, practitioner of barbering, funeral director,
13 dietitian, behavior analyst, assistant behavior analyst,
14 marital and family therapist, mental health counselor,
15 midwife, respiratory care and polysomnography practitioner,
16 polysomnographic technologist, social worker, massage therapist,
17 athletic trainer, acupuncturist, nursing home administrator,
18 hearing aid specialist, or sign language interpreter or
19 transliterator means a person licensed under this subtitle.

20 6. "Profession" means medicine and surgery, podiatry,
21 osteopathic medicine and surgery, genetic counseling, practice
22 as a physician assistant, anesthesiologist assistant, psychology,
23 chiropractic, nursing, dentistry, dental hygiene, dental
24 assisting, optometry, speech pathology, audiology, pharmacy,
25 physical therapy, physical therapist assisting, occupational
26 therapy, occupational therapy assisting, respiratory care,
27 cosmetology arts and sciences, barbering, mortuary science,
28 applied behavior analysis, marital and family therapy, mental
29 health counseling, midwifery, polysomnography, social work,
30 dietetics, massage therapy, athletic training, acupuncture,
31 nursing home administration, practice as a hearing aid
32 specialist, sign language interpreting or transliterating,
33 orthotics, prosthetics, or pedorthics.

34 Sec. 2. Section 147.2, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to
35 read as follows:

1 1. A person shall not engage in the practice of
2 medicine and surgery, podiatry, osteopathic medicine and
3 surgery, anesthesiologist assisting, genetic counseling,
4 psychology, chiropractic, physical therapy, physical therapist
5 assisting, nursing, dentistry, dental hygiene, dental
6 assisting, optometry, speech pathology, audiology, occupational
7 therapy, occupational therapy assisting, orthotics, prosthetics,
8 pedorthics, respiratory care, pharmacy, cosmetology arts and
9 sciences, barbering, social work, dietetics, applied behavior
10 analysis, marital and family therapy or mental health counseling,
11 massage therapy, mortuary science, polysomnography, athletic
12 training, acupuncture, nursing home administration, or sign
13 language interpreting or transliterating, or shall not practice
14 as a physician assistant or a hearing aid specialist, unless the
15 person has obtained a license for that purpose from the board for
16 the profession.

17 Sec. 3. Section 147.13, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 1. For medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and
20 surgery, anesthesiologist assistant, acupuncture, and genetic
21 counseling, the board of medicine.

22 Sec. 4. Section 147.74, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
23 following new subsection:

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 29. An anesthesiologist assistant licensed
25 pursuant to chapter 148K may use the words "anesthesiologist
26 assistant" or "certified anesthesiologist assistant" or the
27 initials "A.A." or "C.A.A." after the person's name.

28 Sec. 5. Section 148.2, subsection 4, Code 2025, is amended to
29 read as follows:

30 4. Licensed podiatric physicians, chiropractors, physical
31 therapists, nurses, dentists, optometrists, anesthesiologist
32 assistants, and pharmacists who are exclusively engaged in the
33 practice of their respective professions.

34 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **148K.1 Definitions.**

35 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise

1 requires:

2 1. "Anesthesiologist" means a physician and surgeon or
3 osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed pursuant to chapter
4 148 who has successfully completed a training program in
5 anesthesiology accredited by the accreditation council for
6 graduate medical education, the American osteopathic association,
7 or an equivalent organization.

8 2. "Anesthesiologist assistant" means a person licensed
9 pursuant to section 148K.3 who is approved by the board to
10 assist in the practice of medicine under delegation of an
11 anesthesiologist.

12 3. "Assist" means the performance of duties delegated to an
13 anesthesiologist assistant by an anesthesiologist.

14 4. "Board" means the board of medicine established in chapter
15 147.

16 5. "Certification examination" means the initial certifying
17 examination approved by the board for the certification
18 of an anesthesiologist assistant, including the examination
19 administered by the national commission for the certification of
20 anesthesiologist assistants or another national anesthesiologist
21 assistant certifying agency that has been reviewed and approved
22 by the board.

23 6. "Supervising anesthesiologist" means an anesthesiologist
24 engaging in the supervision of an anesthesiologist assistant.

25 7. "Supervision" means the supervision by an anesthesiologist
26 who can delegate, coordinate, direct, or consult an
27 anesthesiologist assistant and oversee the implementation of the
28 anesthesiologist's instructions.

29 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. **148K.2 Board — powers and duties.**

30 The board shall do all of the following:

31 1. Grant, deny, revoke, and reinstate a license to practice
32 anesthesiology assisting.

33 2. Investigate claims that an anesthesiologist assistant or
34 supervising anesthesiologist has engaged in conduct prohibited by
35 this chapter.

1 3. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A for the practice of
2 anesthesiologist assistants.

3 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. **148K.3 Anesthesiologist assistants —**
4 **licensing.**

5 1. A person shall not practice as an anesthesiologist
6 assistant in this state, use the title or abbreviations
7 "anesthesiologist assistant", "A.A.", or "C.A.A.", or represent
8 that the person is an anesthesiologist assistant unless the
9 person is licensed pursuant to this section.

10 2. The board shall grant an anesthesiologist assistant
11 license to an applicant who does all of the following:

12 a. Graduates from an anesthesiologist assistant program
13 accredited by the commission on accreditation of allied health
14 education programs or its successor organization.

15 b. Successfully completes a certification examination
16 administered by the national commission for the certification of
17 anesthesiologist assistants or another national certifying agency
18 that has been reviewed and approved by the board.

19 c. Submits an application on a form prescribed by the board.

20 d. Submits an application fee in an amount determined by the
21 board by rule.

22 3. A license issued pursuant to this section is valid for
23 a period of two years. A licensee may renew a license issued
24 pursuant to this section by submitting a renewal application in a
25 form prescribed, and an application fee in an amount determined,
26 by the board by rule by January 31 of the year of expiration.
27 The board shall provide renewal notices to licensees at least one
28 month prior to expiration.

29 4. a. The board shall issue a temporary license to a person
30 who does all of the following:

31 (1) Submits a temporary license application on a form
32 prescribed by the board by rule.

33 (2) Submits an application fee in an amount determined by the
34 board by rule.

35 (3) Successfully completes a program approved by the

1 commission on accreditation of allied health education or another
2 program approved by the board for the education and training of
3 anesthesiologist assistants.

4 (4) Certifies that the person intends to take the next
5 available certification examination after the receipt of the
6 temporary license.

7 b. A temporary license shall not be issued for a period
8 of more than one year and is not eligible for renewal. The
9 board may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A for additional
10 restrictions on a temporary license.

11 5. The board may revoke, suspend, restrict, or refuse to
12 renew a license issued pursuant to this section if the board
13 determines that a person has violated a provision of this
14 chapter, or rules adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter.

15 6. a. The board may issue a new license to an
16 anesthesiologist assistant whose license was previously revoked
17 by the board if the former anesthesiologist assistant submits an
18 application in a form prescribed by the board and the board finds
19 all of the following:

20 (1) That the applicant is completely rehabilitated with
21 respect to the conduct that was the basis for revocation.

22 (2) That the applicant has not engaged in any conduct
23 during the revocation period that would constitute a basis for
24 revocation of an anesthesiologist assistant license.

25 (3) If the basis of the revocation was a criminal conviction,
26 that the applicant's civil rights have been fully restored.

27 (4) That the applicant has made restitution to any aggrieved
28 person as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

29 (5) That the applicant satisfies any other standard of
30 rehabilitation as determined by the board by rule.

31 b. A person shall not apply for the reinstatement of a
32 license for at least two years from the date of revocation,
33 except that a person whose license was revoked due to a
34 conviction for a crime that was later reversed on appeal may
35 apply for reinstatement immediately upon the entry of reversal by

1 the court.

2 c. An applicant for reinstatement shall comply with all
3 requirements for initial licensure as an anesthesiologist
4 assistant.

5 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. **148K.4 Anesthesiologist assistant —**
6 **scope of practice.**

7 1. An anesthesiologist assistant shall assist in the practice
8 of medicine only under the supervision of an anesthesiologist and
9 shall perform only those duties delegated to the anesthesiologist
10 assistant by the supervising anesthesiologist.

11 2. A supervising anesthesiologist shall supervise an
12 anesthesiologist assistant in a manner consistent with federal
13 rules and regulations for reimbursement for anesthesia services.

14 3. A supervising anesthesiologist shall be immediately
15 available to the anesthesiologist assistant who assists in
16 the delivery of medical care such that the supervising
17 anesthesiologist is available to intervene if needed.

18 4. The practice of an anesthesiologist assistant shall not
19 exceed the education and training of the anesthesiologist
20 assistant. A medical care task assigned to an anesthesiologist
21 assistant by a supervising anesthesiologist shall not be
22 delegated by the anesthesiologist assistant to another person.

23 5. A supervising anesthesiologist may delegate any of the
24 following duties to an anesthesiologist assistant:

25 a. Developing and implementing an anesthesia care plan for a
26 patient.

27 b. Obtaining a comprehensive patient history and performing
28 relevant elements of a physical exam.

29 c. Performing preoperative and postoperative anesthetic
30 evaluations and maintaining patient progress notes.

31 d. Ordering and performing preoperative patient
32 consultations.

33 e. Ordering preoperative medications, including controlled
34 substances, which may be administered before the supervising
35 anesthesiologist cosigns.

- 1 *f.* Changing or discontinuing a medical treatment plan after
- 2 consulting with a supervising anesthesiologist.
- 3 *g.* Obtaining informed consent for anesthesia or related
- 4 procedures.
- 5 *h.* Ordering the perioperative continuation of current
- 6 medications, which may be administered before the supervising
- 7 anesthesiologist cosigns.
- 8 *i.* Pretesting and calibrating anesthesia delivery systems
- 9 and obtaining and interpreting information from the systems and
- 10 monitors.
- 11 *j.* Implementing medically accepted monitoring techniques.
- 12 *k.* Performing basic and advanced airway interventions,
- 13 including but not limited to endotracheal intubation, laryngeal
- 14 mask insertion, and other advanced airway techniques.
- 15 *l.* Establishing peripheral intravenous lines, including
- 16 subcutaneous lidocaine use.
- 17 *m.* Performing invasive procedures, including but not limited
- 18 to arterial lines, central lines, and Swanz Ganz catheters.
- 19 *n.* Performing general anesthesia, including induction,
- 20 maintenance, and emergence, and procedures associated with
- 21 general anesthesia, such as gastric intubation.
- 22 *o.* Administering anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and
- 23 accessory drugs.
- 24 *p.* Administering vasoactive drugs and starting and titrating
- 25 vasoactive infusions to treat patient responses to anesthesia.
- 26 *q.* Performing, maintaining, evaluating, and managing
- 27 epidural, spinal, and regional anesthesia, including catheters.
- 28 *r.* Performing monitored anesthesia care.
- 29 *s.* Obtaining venous and arterial blood samples.
- 30 *t.* Administering blood, blood products, and supportive
- 31 fluids.
- 32 *u.* Performing, ordering, and interpreting appropriate
- 33 preoperative, point-of-care, intraoperative, or postoperative
- 34 diagnostic tests or procedures.
- 35 *v.* Obtaining and administering perioperative anesthesia and

1 related pharmaceutical agents, including intravenous fluids and
2 blood products.

3 w. Managing the patient while in the preoperative suite,
4 recovery area, or labor suite.

5 x. Ordering postoperative sedation, anxiolysis or analgesia,
6 postoperative respiratory therapy and medicines to treat patient
7 responses to anesthesia, and postoperative oxygen therapy,
8 including initial ventilator therapy, which may be administered
9 before the supervising anesthesiologist cosigns.

10 y. Initiating and managing cardiopulmonary resuscitation in
11 response to a life-threatening situation.

12 z. Participating in administrative, research, and
13 clinical teaching activities, including supervising student
14 anesthesiologist assistants and other students involved in
15 anesthesia education.

16 aa. Performing other tasks not prohibited by law that an
17 anesthesiologist assistant has been trained in and is proficient
18 to perform.

19 6. This section shall not prohibit an anesthesiologist
20 assistant from having access to and obtaining prescription drugs
21 as directed by a supervising anesthesiologist.

22 7. This section shall not apply to a person enrolled in
23 an anesthesiologist assistant education program approved by the
24 board.

25 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. **148K.5 Unauthorized practice —**
26 **penalties.**

27 1. a. A person who practices anesthesiologist assisting
28 without a license issued pursuant to this chapter is guilty of
29 a serious misdemeanor.

30 b. A person who represents that the person is an
31 anesthesiologist assistant without a license issued pursuant to
32 this chapter, or who employs a person to practice anesthesiology
33 assisting who is not licensed pursuant to this chapter, is guilty
34 of a serious misdemeanor.

35 2. Except for a person licensed pursuant to this chapter,

1 this section does not apply to persons who are licensed to
2 practice a health profession covered by chapter 147, when the
3 licensee's performance of anesthesiology assisting falls within
4 the scope of practice of the licensee's licensed profession.

5 EXPLANATION

6 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
7 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8 This bill creates the licensed profession of anesthesiology
9 assisting under the authority of the board of medicine (board).
10 The bill allows an anesthesiologist, defined in the bill as
11 a physician and surgeon or osteopathic physician and surgeon
12 who is trained in the administration of anesthesia, to delegate
13 certain duties, listed in the bill, to an anesthesiologist
14 assistant who is licensed by the board and supervised by
15 the anesthesiologist. The bill includes definitions for both
16 "assist" and "supervision".

17 The bill requires the board to license a person as an
18 anesthesiologist assistant if the person graduates from an
19 accredited anesthesiologist assistant program, completes an
20 appropriate certification examination, submits an application on
21 a form prescribed by the board, and pays an application fee in
22 an amount determined by the board by rule. An anesthesiologist
23 assistant shall be valid for two years and may be renewed. The
24 bill also requires the board to issue a temporary license to a
25 person who successfully completes an accredited anesthesiologist
26 assistant training program, certifies that person intends to take
27 the next available certification examination after the receipt
28 of the temporary license, submits an application in a form
29 prescribed by the board, and pays an application fee in an amount
30 determined by the board by rule. A temporary license shall not
31 be issued for a term of more than one year and is not eligible
32 for renewal.

33 The bill allows the board to revoke, suspend, restrict, or
34 refuse to renew an anesthesiologist assistant license if the
35 board determines that a licensee has violated a provision of

1 the bill or rules adopted by the board. The bill also allows
2 a board to reinstate a revoked license if the board makes
3 certain determinations regarding the former licensee's fitness
4 to practice anesthesiologist assisting and the former licensee
5 applies for reinstatement. The bill prohibits a former licensee
6 from applying for reinstatement less than two years from the date
7 the license is revoked, except that a person whose license was
8 revoked due to a conviction for a crime that was later reversed
9 on appeal may apply for reinstatement immediately upon the entry
10 of reversal by the court.

11 The bill allows an anesthesiologist assistant to perform only
12 those duties delegated to the anesthesiologist assistant by the
13 supervising anesthesiologist that are within the education and
14 training of the anesthesiologist assistant. The bill requires
15 a supervising anesthesiologist to be immediately available
16 to the anesthesiologist assistant such that the supervising
17 anesthesiologist is available to intervene if needed. The bill
18 does not prohibit an anesthesiologist assistant from having
19 access to and obtaining prescription drugs as directed by a
20 supervising anesthesiologist.

21 The bill prohibits a person who is not licensed as provided
22 in the bill from using the title "anesthesiologist assistant",
23 using the initials "A.A." or "C.A.A.", or otherwise representing
24 that the person is an anesthesiologist assistant. The bill
25 also prohibits a person from practicing anesthesiology assisting
26 without a license issued pursuant to the bill unless the person
27 is licensed to practice a health profession and the performance
28 of anesthesiology assisting is within the scope of practice
29 of the person's license. A person who violates either of
30 these provisions is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. A serious
31 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than one
32 year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560.