

Senate Study Bill 3059 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON WARME)

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

11

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

12

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.

31

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".