

**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  
2 and physician associate.

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

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 ~~assistant~~ associate" after the person's name  
6 or 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,  
10 all references in the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative  
11 Code to "physician assistant" shall be revised to "physician  
12 associate". The terms "physician assistant", "physician  
13 associate", and "P.A." are synonymous, and all rights and  
14 responsibilities of a physician assistant under current law are  
15 unaffected by the change in title to "physician associate".

16 2. All persons or entities employing, coordinating  
17 treatment with, following orders from, training, educating, or  
18 contracting with a person licensed as a physician assistant  
19 or educating individuals in an accredited physician assistant  
20 or physician associate education program, including but not  
21 limited to a hospital or other health care facility, physician,  
22 third-party payor, the federal government, and malpractice  
23 insurance carriers, shall continue the relationship without  
24 interruption or alteration as a result of the change in  
25 title to "physician associate". A person or entity shall not  
26 discriminate against an individual in contracting with the  
27 individual, employment, or otherwise solely as a result of the  
28 individual's use of the title "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",  
32 "physician associate", or "P.A.". A person or entity  
33 interacting with a person using the title "physician associate"  
34 is entitled to rely on the person having all rights and  
35 responsibilities of a 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, as  
5 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,  
17 139A.22, 139A.35, 139A.41, 141A.1, 141A.5, 141A.6, 141A.7,  
18 142C.8, 144.26, 144.28, 144A.2, 144A.4, 144A.7A, 144B.1,  
19 144B.5, 144B.6, 144D.1, 144D.2, 144D.3, 144D.4, 144F.2, 147.1,  
20 147.2, 147.13, 147.14, 147.77, 147.107, 147.136, 147.136A,  
21 147.138, 147A.1, 147A.8, 147A.9, 147A.10, 147A.13, 148C.1,  
22 148C.2, 148C.3, 148C.4, 148C.5, 148C.8, 148C.9, 148C.11,  
23 148C.13, 148F.7, 148G.1, 148H.4, 152.1, 152B.1, 152C.9, 152D.4,  
24 152D.7, 154C.7, 154D.4, 154F.2, 155A.3, 155A.23, 189A.6, 225.9,  
25 225.12, 225.15, 225.16, 228.1, 229.22, 232.68, 232.71B, 232.78,  
26 232.79, 232.95, 233.1, 234.22, 235A.13, 237A.5, 237A.13, 249.3,  
27 249A.4, 249A.4B, 249N.2, 252E.1, 256.222, 272C.1, 272C.2C,  
28 280.13C, 280.16, 280A.1, 321.34, 321.186, 321.375, 321.446,  
29 321J.7, 321J.11, 321L.2, 321L.2A, 411.5, 462A.14A, 489.1101,  
30 489.1102, 489.1105, 496C.2, 496C.4, 496C.7, 514C.11, 514C.17,  
31 514C.18, 514C.20, 514C.25, 514C.28, 514F.6, 614.1, 622.10,  
32 668A.1, 669.2, 702.8, 707A.1, 730.5, and 915.46.

33 2. The Code editor is directed to make changes in any Code  
34 sections or other noncodified enactments amended or enacted  
35 by any other Act to correspond with the changes made in this

1 Act if there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of  
2 making the changes and the changes would not be contrary to or  
3 inconsistent with the purposes of this Act or any other Act.

4 Sec. 4. AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

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

11

EXPLANATION

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

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

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