
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1253

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Dellwo, Morris, Dyer and Wood; by request of Department of Health)

Read first time 02/17/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to licensure of physician assistants; and amending
2 RCW 18.57A.020, 18.57A.030, 18.57A.040, 18.57A.050, 18.71A.020,
3 18.71A.030, 18.71A.040, and 18.71A.050.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.57A.020 and 1992 c 28 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The board shall adopt rules ~~((and regulations))~~ fixing the
8 qualifications and the educational and training requirements for
9 ~~((persons who may be employed))~~ licensure as an osteopathic
10 physician~~((s))~~ assistant~~((s))~~ or ~~((who may be))~~ for those enrolled in
11 any ~~((physician's))~~ physician assistant training program. The
12 requirements shall include completion of an accredited physician
13 assistant training program approved by the board and eligibility to
14 take an examination approved by the board, providing such examination
15 tests subjects substantially equivalent to the curriculum of an
16 accredited physician assistant training program.

17 (2)(a) The board shall~~((, in addition,))~~ adopt rules ~~((and~~
18 ~~regulations))~~ governing the extent to which:

1 ~~(i)~~ Physician~~((s))~~ assistant~~((s))~~ students may practice medicine
2 during training; and

3 (ii) Physician assistants may practice after successful completion
4 of a training course.

5 ~~(b)~~ ~~Such~~ ~~((regulations))~~ rules shall provide:

6 ~~((1))~~ (i) That the practice of an osteopathic physician~~((s))~~
7 assistant shall be limited to the performance of those services for
8 which he or she is trained; and

9 ~~((2))~~ (ii) That each osteopathic physician~~((s))~~ assistant shall
10 practice osteopathic medicine only under the supervision and control of
11 an osteopathic physician licensed in this state, but such supervision
12 and control shall not be construed to necessarily require the personal
13 presence of the supervising physicians at the place where services are
14 rendered. The board may authorize the use of alternative supervisors
15 who are licensed either under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

16 (3) Applicants for licensure shall file an application with the
17 board on a form prepared by the secretary with the approval of the
18 board, detailing the education, training, and experience of the
19 physician assistant and such other information as the board may
20 require. The application shall be accompanied by a fee determined by
21 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250. Each applicant shall
22 furnish proof satisfactory to the board of the following:

23 (a) That the applicant has completed an accredited physician
24 assistant program approved by the board and is eligible to take the
25 examination approved by the board;

26 (b) That the applicant is of good moral character; and

27 (c) That the applicant is physically and mentally capable of
28 practicing osteopathic medicine as an osteopathic physician assistant
29 with reasonable skill and safety. The board may require any applicant
30 to submit to such examination or examinations as it deems necessary to
31 determine an applicant's physical and/or mental capability to safely
32 practice as an osteopathic physician assistant.

33 (4) The board may approve, deny, or take other disciplinary action
34 upon the application for a license as provided in the uniform
35 disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW. The license shall be renewed on
36 a periodic basis as determined by the secretary under RCW 43.70.280,
37 upon payment of a fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW
38 43.70.250 and submission of a completed renewal application, in

1 addition to any late renewal penalty fees as determined by the
2 secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.57A.030 and 1986 c 259 s 95 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 An osteopathic physician(~~'s~~) assistant as defined in this chapter
6 may practice osteopathic medicine in this state only ~~((after~~
7 ~~authorization))~~ with the approval of the practice arrangement plan by
8 the board and only to the extent permitted by the board. An
9 osteopathic physician assistant who has received a license but who has
10 not received board approval of the practice arrangement plan under RCW
11 18.57A.040 may not practice. An osteopathic physician(~~'s~~) assistant
12 shall be subject to discipline by the board under the provisions of
13 chapter 18.130 RCW.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.57A.040 and 1991 c 3 s 152 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 (1) No osteopathic physician assistant practicing in this state
17 shall ~~((utilize the services of an osteopathic physician's assistant))~~
18 be employed or supervised by an osteopathic physician or physician
19 group without the approval of the board.

20 ~~((Any))~~ (2) Prior to commencing practice, an osteopathic physician
21 assistant licensed in this state ~~((may))~~ shall apply to the board for
22 permission to ~~((use the services of an osteopathic physician's~~
23 assistant)) be employed or supervised by an osteopathic physician or
24 physician group. The ~~((application))~~ practice arrangement plan shall
25 be ~~((accompanied by a fee determined by the secretary as provided in~~
26 RCW 43.70.250,)) jointly submitted by the osteopathic physician or
27 physician group and osteopathic physician assistant. The secretary may
28 charge a fee as provided in RCW 43.70.250 to recover the cost for the
29 plan review. The practice arrangement plan shall ~~((detail))~~ delineate
30 the manner and extent to which the physician(~~'s~~) assistant would ~~((be~~
31 used)) practice and be supervised(~~(, shall detail the education,~~
32 training, and experience of the osteopathic physician's assistant and
33 shall provide such other information in such form as the board may
34 require.

35 ~~The board may approve or reject such applications. In addition,~~
36 ~~the board may modify the proposed utilization of the osteopathic~~
37 ~~physician's assistant, and approve the application as modified. No~~

1 ~~such approval shall extend for more than one year, but approval once~~
2 ~~granted may be renewed annually upon payment of a fee determined by the~~
3 ~~secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250)). Whenever ((it appears to the~~
4 ~~board that)) an osteopathic physician((~~s~~)) assistant is ((being~~
5 ~~utilized)) practicing in a manner inconsistent with the ((approval~~
6 ~~granted)) approved practice arrangement plan, the board may ((withdraw~~
7 ~~such approval. In the event a hearing is requested upon the rejection~~
8 ~~of an application, or upon the withdrawal of an approval, a hearing~~
9 ~~shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW)) take
10 disciplinary action under chapter 18.130 RCW.~~

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.57A.050 and 1986 c 259 s 97 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 No osteopathic physician who ((~~uses the services of an~~)) supervises
14 a licensed osteopathic physician((~~s~~)) assistant in accordance with and
15 within the terms of any permission granted by the board shall be
16 considered as aiding and abetting an unlicensed person to practice
17 osteopathic medicine within the meaning of RCW ((~~18.57.080~~)) 18.57.001:
18 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That ((~~any~~)) the supervising osteopathic physician
19 and the osteopathic physician assistant shall retain professional and
20 personal responsibility for any act which constitutes the practice of
21 osteopathic medicine as defined in RCW ((~~18.57.130~~)) 18.57.001 when
22 performed by ((~~a physician's~~)) the physician assistant ((~~in his~~
23 ~~employ~~)).

24 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.71A.020 and 1992 c 28 s 2 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) The board shall adopt rules fixing the qualifications and the
27 educational and training requirements for ((~~persons who may be employed~~
28 ~~as~~)) licensure as a physician assistant((~~s~~)) or ((~~who may be~~)) for
29 those enrolled in any physician assistant training program. The
30 requirements shall include completion of an accredited physician
31 assistant training program approved by the board and eligibility to
32 take an examination approved by the board, provided such examination
33 tests subjects substantially equivalent to the curriculum of an
34 accredited physician assistant training program. Physician assistants
35 licensed by the board ((~~on~~)) as of June 7, 1990, shall continue to be
36 licensed.

37 (2)(a) The board shall adopt rules governing the extent to which:

1 (i) Physician assistant students may practice medicine during
2 training; and

3 (ii) Physician assistants may practice after successful completion
4 of a physician assistant training course.

5 (b) Such rules shall provide:

6 (i) That the practice of a physician assistant shall be limited to
7 the performance of those services for which he or she is trained; and

8 (ii) That each physician assistant shall practice medicine only
9 under the supervision and control of a physician licensed in this
10 state, but such supervision and control shall not be construed to
11 necessarily require the personal presence of the supervising physician
12 or physicians at the place where services are rendered.

13 (3) Applicants for licensure shall file an application with the
14 board on a form prepared by the secretary with the approval of the
15 board, detailing the education, training, and experience of the
16 physician assistant and such other information as the board may
17 require. The application shall be accompanied by a fee determined by
18 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250. Each applicant shall
19 furnish proof satisfactory to the board of the following:

20 (a) That the applicant has completed an accredited physician
21 assistant program approved by the board and is eligible to take the
22 examination approved by the board;

23 (b) That the applicant is of good moral character; and

24 (c) That the applicant is physically and mentally capable of
25 practicing medicine as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and
26 safety. The board may require an applicant to submit to such
27 examination or examinations as it deems necessary to determine an
28 applicant's physical or mental capability, or both, to safely practice
29 as a physician assistant.

30 (4) The board may approve, deny, or take other disciplinary action
31 upon the application for license as provided in the uniform
32 disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW. The license shall be renewed on
33 a periodic basis as determined by the secretary under RCW 43.70.280,
34 upon payment of a fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW
35 43.70.250, and submission of a completed renewal application, in
36 addition to any late renewal penalty fees as determined by the
37 secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250. The board may authorize the
38 use of alternative supervisors who are licensed either under chapter
39 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.71A.030 and 1990 c 196 s 3 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 A physician assistant as defined in this chapter may practice
4 medicine in this state only ~~((after authorization))~~ with the approval
5 of the practice arrangement plan by the board and only to the extent
6 permitted by the board. A physician assistant who has received a
7 license but who has not received board approval of the practice
8 arrangement plan under RCW 18.71A.040 may not practice. A physician
9 assistant shall be subject to discipline under chapter 18.130 RCW.

10 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.71A.040 and 1990 c 196 s 4 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1) No physician assistant practicing in this state shall
13 ~~((employ))~~ be employed or ~~((supervise))~~ supervised by a physician
14 ~~((assistant))~~ or physician group without the approval of the board.

15 ~~((Any))~~ (2) Prior to commencing practice, a physician assistant
16 licensed in this state ((may)) shall apply to the board for permission
17 to ((employ)) be employed or ((supervise)) supervised by a physician
18 ((assistant)) or physician group. The ~~((application))~~ practice
19 arrangement plan shall be jointly submitted by the physician or
20 physician group and physician assistant ~~((and shall be accompanied by~~
21 ~~a fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250. The~~
22 ~~joint application)).~~ The secretary may charge a fee as provided in RCW
23 43.70.250 to recover the cost for the plan review. The practice
24 arrangement plan shall ~~((detail))~~ delineate the manner and extent to
25 which the physician assistant would practice and be supervised~~((, shall~~
26 ~~detail the education, training, and experience of the physician~~
27 ~~assistant and shall provide such other information in such form as the~~
28 ~~board may require.~~

29 ~~The board may approve or reject such applications. In addition,~~
30 ~~the board may modify the proposed practice of the physician assistant,~~
31 ~~and approve the application as modified. No such approval shall extend~~
32 ~~for more than one year, but approval once granted may be renewed upon~~
33 ~~payment of a fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW~~
34 ~~43.70.250)).~~ Whenever ~~((it appears to the board that))~~ a physician
35 assistant is practicing in a manner inconsistent with the ~~((approval~~
36 ~~granted))~~ approved practice arrangement plan, the medical disciplinary
37 board may ((withdraw such approval. In the event a hearing is
38 requested upon the rejection of an application, or upon the withdrawal

1 of an approval, a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter
2 ~~18.130 RCW~~) take disciplinary action under chapter 18.130 RCW.

3 **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.71A.050 and 1990 c 196 s 5 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 No physician who supervises a licensed physician assistant in
6 accordance with and within the terms of any permission granted by the
7 medical examining board shall be considered as aiding and abetting an
8 unlicensed person to practice medicine(~~(:— PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That~~
9 ~~any)).~~ The supervising physician and physician assistant shall retain
10 professional and personal responsibility for any act which constitutes
11 the practice of medicine as defined in RCW (~~(18.71.010)~~) 18.71.011 when
12 performed by ((a)) the physician assistant ((~~in the physician's~~
13 ~~employ~~)).

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