
SENATE BILL 5517

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Moyer, Fraser and Prentice; by request of Department of Health

Read first time 02/01/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

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

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71A.020 and 1992 c 28 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The board shall adopt rules fixing the qualifications ~~((and the~~
7 ~~educational and training requirements))~~ for ~~((persons who may be~~
8 ~~employed))~~ licensure as physician assistants ~~((or who may be enrolled~~
9 ~~in any physician assistant training program))~~. The ~~((requirements))~~
10 qualifications shall include completion of an accredited physician
11 assistant training program approved by the board and eligibility to
12 take an examination approved by the board, provided such examination
13 tests subjects substantially equivalent to the curriculum of an
14 accredited physician assistant training program. Physician assistants
15 licensed by the board of medical examiners on ~~((June 7, 1990))~~ the
16 effective date of this act, shall continue to be licensed.

17 (2)~~((a))~~ The board shall adopt rules governing the extent to
18 which~~((÷~~

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

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

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

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

9 ~~((ii)) (b) That each physician assistant shall practice medicine~~
10 ~~only ((under)) with the supervision ((and control)) of a physician or~~
11 ~~physicians licensed in this state, but such supervision ((and control))~~
12 ~~shall not be construed to necessarily require the personal presence of~~
13 ~~the supervising physician or physicians at the place where services are~~
14 ~~rendered. The board, in rules, may distinguish between the level of~~
15 ~~supervision required for:~~

16 ~~(i) Physician assistants who have successfully completed an~~
17 ~~American medical association accredited and board-approved physician~~
18 ~~assistant program and have passed the initial national board~~
19 ~~examination administered by the national commission on certification of~~
20 ~~physician assistants; and~~

21 ~~(ii) Physician assistants who have not successfully completed an~~
22 ~~American medical association accredited and board-approved physician~~
23 ~~assistant program and have not passed the initial national board~~
24 ~~examination administered by the national commission on certification of~~
25 ~~physician assistants. The board may authorize the use of alternative~~
26 ~~supervisors who are licensed either under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.~~

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71A.040 and 1990 c 196 s 4 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 ~~((No physician practicing in this state shall employ or supervise~~
30 ~~a physician assistant without the approval of the board.~~

31 ~~Any physician licensed in this state may apply to the board for~~
32 ~~permission to employ or supervise a physician assistant.)) (1)(a) The~~
33 ~~application for licensure shall be ((jointly)) submitted by the~~
34 ~~((physician and)) physician assistant and shall be accompanied by a fee~~
35 ~~determined by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250. The~~
36 ~~((joint)) application shall ((detail the manner and extent to which the~~
37 ~~physician assistant would practice and be supervised, shall)) detail~~
38 ~~the education, training, and experience of the physician assistant and~~

1 shall provide such other information in such form as the board may
2 require.

3 (b) The board may approve ((or reject such)), deny, or take other
4 disciplinary action upon the application((s)) as provided in the
5 uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW. ((In addition, the board
6 may modify the proposed practice of the physician assistant, and
7 approve the application as modified. No such approval shall extend for
8 more than one year, but approval once granted may)) The license shall
9 be renewed on a periodic basis as determined by the secretary under RCW
10 43.70.280, upon payment of a fee determined by the secretary as
11 provided in RCW 43.70.250 and submission of a completed renewal
12 application, in addition to any late renewal penalty fees as determined
13 by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250. ((Whenever it appears
14 to the board that a physician assistant is practicing in a manner
15 inconsistent with the approval granted, the board may withdraw such
16 approval.)) In the event a hearing is requested upon the ((rejection))
17 denial of an application, upon the denial of a renewal, or upon ((the
18 withdrawal of an approval)) disciplinary action against the license, a
19 hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 18.130 RCW.

20 (2) No physician practicing in this state shall supervise a
21 physician assistant without the approval of the board. Prior to
22 commencing practice, the physician assistant and the supervising
23 physician shall submit documentation approved by the board, delineating
24 the working relationship with the supervising physician.

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

27 No physician who supervises a licensed physician assistant in
28 accordance with and within the terms of any permission granted by the
29 medical examining board shall be considered as aiding and abetting an
30 unlicensed person to practice medicine: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any
31 physician shall retain professional and personal responsibility for any
32 act which constitutes the practice of medicine as defined in RCW
33 ~~((18.71.010))~~ 18.71.011 when performed by a physician assistant ~~((in~~
34 ~~the physician's employ))~~.

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