

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5499

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Health & Long Term Care, January 19, 2022

Title: An act relating to credentialing of medical assistant-hemodialysis technicians.

Brief Description: Concerning credentialing of medical assistant-hemodialysis technicians.

Sponsors: Senators Cleveland, Muzzall, Randall and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long Term Care: 1/17/22, 1/19/22 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows medical assistant-hemodialysis technician applicants to continue working at a dialysis facility up to 120 days after the filing of their certification application.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Cleveland, Chair; Frockt, Vice Chair; Muzzall, Ranking Member; Conway, Holy, Keiser, Padden, Randall, Rivers, Robinson, Sefzik and Van De Wege.

Staff: Julie Tran (786-7283)

Background: Medical Assistant-Hemodialysis Technician. The Department of Health (DOH) licenses four different types of medical assistants—medical assistant-certified, medical assistant-registered, medical assistant-phlebotomist, and medical assistant-hemodialysis technician (MA-HT). Each type of medical assistant must be supervised by a health care practitioner, including a physician, an osteopathic physician, a podiatric physician, a registered nurse, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, a naturopath, a physician assistant, or an optometrist.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

A MA-HT is a person certified who performs hemodialysis and other functions under the supervision of a health care practitioner. Other functions include but are not limited to:

- administering drugs and oxygen to a patient when delegated and supervised by a health care practitioner; and
- if trained by a federally approved end-stage renal disease facility, performing dialysis tasks in a renal dialysis center under immediate supervision of a registered nurse, or in a patient's home if a physician and a registered nurse are available for consultation during the dialysis.

A MA-HT applicant must complete a hemodialysis training program or hold a national credential as a hemodialysis technician that is substantially equivalent to training as outlined by DOH. Military training or experience may also be satisfactory unless the secretary of DOH determines the training or experience is not substantially equivalent to the requirements outlined by DOH. Applicants must also have the following competencies:

- completion of high school education or its equivalent;
- the ability to read, write, and converse in the English language;
- basic math skills including the use of fractions and decimal points; and
- current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification.

Summary of Bill: Medical assistant-hemodialysis technician applicants may continue working at a dialysis facility, under the level of supervision required for the training program, for up to 120 days after filing the certification application in order to allow sufficient time for processing a MA-HT certification.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Kidney dialysis facilities are facing staffing challenges. Streamlining the process for medical assistant-hemodialysis technicians to receive certification provides the assistance needed to ensure access to treatment that won't be disrupted for dialysis patients. This bill allows a 120 day gap period so applicants, who have finished their training, may continue working at the dialysis facilities and provide continuity of care.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Annette Cleveland, Prime Sponsor; Leslie Emerick, Fresenius Medical Care North America.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.