

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill changes the regulatory status of physician assistants from registered to licensed.

Section

1 Definitions. Amends § 144.1501, subd. 1. Strikes “registered” and inserts “licensed.”

2 Ambulance service personnel. Amends § 144E.001, subd. 3a. Strikes “registered” and inserts “licensed.”

3 Physician assistant. Amends § 144E.001, subd. 9c. Strikes “registered” and inserts “licensed.”

4 Exemptions. Amends § 147.09. Strikes “registered” and inserts “licensed.”

5 Definitions. Amends § 147A.01.

Subd. 1. Scope. No change.

Subd. 2. Active status. Definition stricken.

Subd. 3. Administrator. No change.

Subd. 4. Agreement. No change.

Subd. 5. Alternate supervising physician. Clarifies that this physician is listed in the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement or in the supplemental listing.

Subd. 6. Board. No change.

Subd. 7. Controlled substance. No change.

Subd. 8. Delegation form. Definition stricken.

Subd. 9. Diagnostic order. No change.

Subd. 10. Drug. No change.

Subd. 11. Drug category. Changes the term “delegation form” to “physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.”

Subd. 12. Inactive. Clarifies that “inactive” means a licensed physician assistant whose license is on inactive status.

Subd. 13. Internal protocol. Definition stricken.

Subd. 14. Legend drug. No change.

Subd. 14a. Licensed. Adds definition.

Subd. 14b. Licensure. Adds definition.

Subd. 15. Locum tenens permit. Definition stricken.

Subd. 16. Medical device. No change.

Subd. 16a. Notice of intent to practice. Defines this as a document that the physician assistant sends to the board that documents the adoption of a physician-physician assistant delegation agreement and provides the information required by section 147A.20.

Subd. 17. Physician. No change.

Subd. 17a. Physician-physician assistant delegation agreement. Provides that this is the document signed by the physician and the physician assistant that defines the physician assistant’s scope of practice. Requires this document to comply with the requirements of section 147A.20.

Subd. 18. Physician assistant or licensed physician assistant. Strikes “registered” and inserts “licensed.” Provides clarifying language.

Subd. 19. Practice setting description. Definition stricken.

Subd. 20. Prescribe. No change.

Subd. 21. Prescription. Adds an electronic order as an approved authorization to prescribe drugs. Changes the term “delegation form” to “physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.”

Subd. 22. Registration. Definition stricken.

Subd. 23. Supervising physician. Increases the number of physician assistants that can be supervised simultaneously by a supervising physician from no more than two to no more than five full-time equivalent physician assistants. Permits, as authorized by the board or in an emergency, the supervising physician to supervise

more than five full-time equivalent physician assistants simultaneously.

Subd. 24. Supervision. No change.

Subd. 25. Temporary license. Strikes obsolete language. Provides that a temporary license may be granted to a license-qualified physician assistant whose license has not yet been approved by the board.

Subd. 26. Therapeutic order. Provides clarifying language.

Subd. 27. Verbal order. Provides clarifying language.

6 Qualifications for licensure. Amends § 147A.02. Strikes “registered” and inserts “licensed.” Strikes “registration” and inserts “licensure.”

7 Protected titles and restrictions on use. Amends § 147A.03.

Subd. 1. Protected titles. Strikes “registered” and inserts “licensed.”

Subd. 2. Health care practitioners. No change.

Subd. 3. Identification of registered practitioners. Strikes this subdivision.

Subd. 4. Sanctions. Strikes “registration” and inserts “licensure.”

8 Temporary license. Amends § 147A.04. Strikes references to registration and temporary permits and inserts the terminology related to licensure.

9 Inactive license. Amends § 147A.05. Strikes “registration” and inserts “license.” Adds that a physician assistant with an inactive license shall not be subject to disciplinary action if the individual provides care during a disaster as defined in section 147A.23.

10 Cancellation of license for nonrenewal. Amends § 147A.06. Strikes references to registration and registrant and inserts terminology related to licensure.

11 Renewal. Amends § 147A.07. Strikes “registration” and inserts “license.” Strikes the requirement that the physician assistant provide proof of the annual review of the physician-physician assistant agreement at the time of license renewal.

12 Exemptions. Amends § 147A.08. Strikes the reference to the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation and substitutes the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant.

13 Scope of practice; delegation. Amends § 147A.09.

Subd. 1. Scope of practice. Specifies that physician assistants can perform only those duties specified in the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement. Adds that a physician assistant may prescribe, administer, and dispense controlled substances if this is included in the delegation agreement. Adds references to the alternate supervising physician.

Subd. 2. Delegation. Lists the patient services that may be delegated to the physician assistant by the delegation agreement.

- Updates the word “radiography” to “radiographic imaging systems.”

- Adds use of ionizing radiation as a therapeutic procedure that the physician assistant can order or perform.
- Clarifies that the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement must specifically delegate the authority to prescribe, administer, and dispense controlled substances, and that the agreement must list all schedules of controlled substances the physician assistant has authority to prescribe.
- Adds that a physician assistant can certify a patient's eligibility for disability parking.
- Adds that a physician assistant can assist at surgery.
- Adds authority for a physician assistant to authorize admission for emergency care and treatment under section 253B.05.

14 Exclusions of limitations on employment. Amends § 147A.11. Strikes “registered” and inserts “licensed.”

15 Grounds for disciplinary action. Amends §147A.13. Strikes references to registration and registrant and inserts terminology related to licensure. Makes technical changes. Clarifies that identification of a physician assistant as “physician,” “doctor,” or “Dr.” in a patient care setting or in a communication directed to the general public is prohibited conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

16 Forms of disciplinary action. Amends §147A.16. Strikes “registration” and inserts “licensed.”

17 Delegated authority to prescribe, dispense, and administer drugs and medical devices.

Subd. 1. Delegation. Strikes references to registration and inserts terminology related to licensure. Strikes obsolete language. Clarifies that the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement must include a statement by the supervising physician regarding the delegation of prescribing, dispensing, and administering controlled substances.

Subd. 2. Termination and reinstatement of prescribing authority. Paragraph (a) makes technical changes.

Strikes paragraph (b), the requirement for the physician assistant to notify the board if prescribing authority is terminated under paragraph (a).

Strikes paragraph (c), the procedure for reinstatement of prescribing authority.

Subd. 3. Other requirements and restrictions.

- Strikes obsolete language.
- Strikes the paragraph that requires the physician and physician assistant to review the delegation agreement annually.

Subd. 4. Notification of pharmacies. This subdivision is stricken. It required notification to the Board of Pharmacy of the names of all physician assistants authorized to prescribe, administer, and dispense legend drugs and medical devices, or controlled substances.

Subd. 5. Delegation form for physician assistant prescribing. This subdivision is stricken. Language is obsolete.

- 18 Identification requirements.** Amends § 147A.19.
Strikes references to registration and inserts terminology related to licensure.
- 19 Physician-physician assistant agreement documents.** Amends § 147A.20.
- Subd. 1. Physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.** Paragraph (a) names the agreement that must be signed by the physician and physician assistant the “physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.” Strikes the requirement that the agreement must contain a statement of the physician’s practice type and specialty.
Paragraph (b) adds that the agreement must contain a description of the prescriptive authority delegated to the physician assistant.
Paragraph (c) strikes obsolete language.
Paragraph (d) strikes obsolete language and inserts new language that requires an alternate supervising physician to be identified in the agreement and to sign the agreement.
Paragraph (e) strikes obsolete language.
- Subd. 2. Notification of intent to practice.** Requires that a physician assistant submit a notification of intent to practice to the board before beginning practice. Lists the information that must be submitted: name, business address, and telephone number of the supervising physician and physician assistant. Failure to submit this information could result in disciplinary action. An exception for providing care in a disaster situation is included.
- 20 Rulemaking authority.** Amends § 147A.21. Strikes the reference to locum tenens permits. Strikes references to registration and inserts terminology related to licensure.
- 21 Responding to disaster situations.** Amends § 147A.23. Paragraph (a) strikes references to registration. Adds a reference to section 604A.01, the Good Samaritan Law. Permits a licensed and trained physician assistant to provide care without physician supervision and without need for a signed physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.
Paragraph (b) makes a technical change.
Paragraph (c) makes a technical change.
- 22 Continuing education requirements.** Amends §147A.24. Requires 50 hours of continuing education credit within the two years preceding license renewal or meeting continuing education standards through current certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.
- 23 Procedures.** Amends § 147A.26. Strikes a reference to registration and inserts terminology related to licenses.
- 24 Physician assistant advisory council.** Amends § 147A.27.
- Subd. 1. Membership.** Specifies that the physician assistant members must be licensed and meet the criteria for new applicants in section 147A.02. Prohibits members from serving more than two consecutive terms.
- Subd. 2. Organization.** No changes.

Subd. 3. Duties. Strikes a reference to registration and inserts terminology related to licensure. Adds the provision that the council shall advise the board on issues related to physician assistant practice and regulation.

- 25** **Definitions.** Amends § 169.345, subd. 2. Makes a technical change, striking “registered” and inserting “licensed.”
- 26** **Examiner.** Amends § 253B.02, subd.7. Adds licensed physician assistants to the list of professionals who can be an examiner under the civil commitment statutes. Prohibits physician assistants from being appointed an examiner by the court or from conducting a Rule 20 assessment under the Minnesota Rules of Criminal Procedure.
- 27** **Peace or health officer authority.** Amends § 253B.05, subd. 2. Makes a technical change, striking “registered” and inserting “licensed.”
- 28** **Licensed physician assistant services.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 28a. Makes technical changes, striking “registered” and inserting “licensed.”
- 29** **Definitions.** Amends § 256B.0751, subd. 1. Makes a technical change, striking “registered” and inserting “licensed.”
- 30** **Repealer.** Repeals § 147A.22, the section on locum tenens permit.