

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 595

Short Title: Physician Assistant Licensure.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lucas; Dannelly, Forrester, Gulley, Jordan, Kinnaird, Martin of Guilford, and Shaw of Cumberland.

Referred to: Children & Human Resources.

April 1, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD TO
2 LICENSE INSTEAD OF APPROVE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, TO ISSUE A
3 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LIMITED VOLUNTEER LICENSE, AND TO MAKE
4 OTHER CHANGES IN THE STATUTES REGULATING PHYSICIAN
5 ASSISTANTS.
6

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 Section 1. G.S. 90-2(d) reads as rewritten:

9 "(d) Any member of the Board may be removed from office by the Governor for
10 good cause shown. Any vacancy in the physician membership of the Board shall be filled
11 for the period of the unexpired term by the Governor from a list of physicians submitted
12 by the North Carolina Medical Society Executive Council. Any vacancy in the ~~public~~
13 public, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner membership of the Board shall be filled
14 by the Governor for the unexpired term."

15 Section 2. G.S. 90-11 reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 90-11. Qualifications of applicant for license.**

17 Every applicant for a license to practice medicine or ~~for approval~~ to perform medical
18 ~~acts~~ acts, tasks, and functions as a physician assistant in the State shall satisfy the North
19 Carolina Medical Board that ~~such~~ the applicant is of good moral character and meets the

1 other qualifications for the issuance of ~~such a license or for such approval~~ before any such
2 license ~~or approval~~ is granted by the Board to ~~such the~~ applicant."

3 Section 3. Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by
4 adding a new section to read:

5 **"§ 90-12.1. Physician assistant limited volunteer license.**

6 The Board shall issue a limited volunteer license which shall authorize a physician
7 assistant to perform medical acts, tasks, and functions without payment or other
8 compensation if the physician assistant meets one of the following:

- 9 (1) Holds a current license or registration in another state and submits proof
10 of this status to the Board.
11 (2) Holds a current license in this State and is not currently employed as a
12 physician assistant.
13 (3) Is a member of the United States armed services or is employed by the
14 Veterans' Administration or another federal agency."

15 Section 4. G.S. 90-18(13) reads as rewritten:

- 16 "(13) ~~Any act, task or function performed by an assistant to a person~~
17 ~~licensed as a physician by the North Carolina Medical Board when~~
18 ~~a. Such assistant is approved by and annually registered with the~~
19 ~~Board as one qualified by training or experience to function as an~~
20 ~~assistant to a physician, except that no more than two assistants~~
21 ~~may be currently registered for any physician, and~~
22 ~~b. Such act, task or function is performed at the direction or under~~
23 ~~the supervision of such physician, in accordance with rules and~~
24 ~~regulations promulgated by the Board, and~~
25 ~~e. The services of the assistant are limited to assisting the physician~~
26 ~~in the particular field or fields for which the assistant has been~~
27 ~~trained, approved and registered;~~

28 The performance of any medical acts, tasks, and functions by a licensed
29 physician assistant at the direction or under the supervision of a
30 physician in accordance with rules adopted by the Board. ~~Provided that~~
31 ~~this~~ This subdivision shall not limit or prevent any physician from
32 delegating to a qualified person any acts, ~~tasks or~~ tasks, and functions
33 which ~~that~~ are otherwise permitted by law or established by custom. The
34 Board shall authorize physician assistants licensed in this State or
35 another state to perform specific medical acts, tasks, and functions
36 during a disaster."

37 Section 5. G.S. 90-18.1 reads as rewritten:

38 **"§ 90-18.1. Limitations on physician assistants.**

39 (a) Any person who is ~~approved~~ licensed under the provisions of ~~G.S. 90-18(13)~~
40 G.S. 90-11 to perform medical acts, ~~tasks or~~ tasks, and functions as an assistant to a
41 physician may use the title 'physician ~~assistant.~~ assistant'. Any other person who uses the
42 title in any form or holds out to be a physician assistant or to be so ~~approved,~~ licensed,
43 shall be deemed to be in violation of this Article.

1 (b) Physician assistants are authorized to write prescriptions for drugs under the
2 following conditions:

- 3 (1) The North Carolina Medical Board has adopted regulations
4 governing the approval of individual physician assistants to write
5 prescriptions with such limitations as the Board may determine to be
6 in the best interest of patient health and ~~safety~~; safety.
- 7 (2) The physician assistant ~~has current approval from~~ holds a current
8 license issued by the Board; ~~Board~~.
- 9 (3) The North Carolina Medical Board has assigned an identification
10 number to the physician assistant which is shown on the written
11 ~~prescription~~; and prescription.
- 12 (4) The supervising physician has provided to the physician assistant
13 written instructions about indications and contraindications for
14 prescribing drugs and a written policy for periodic review by the
15 physician of the drugs prescribed.

16 (c) Physician assistants are authorized to compound and dispense drugs under the
17 following conditions:

- 18 (1) The function is performed under the supervision of a licensed
19 ~~pharmacist~~; and pharmacist.
- 20 (2) Rules and regulations of the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy
21 governing this function are complied with.
- 22 (3) The physician assistant holds a current license issued by the Board.

23 (d) Physician assistants are authorized to order medications, tests and treatments in
24 hospitals, clinics, ~~nursing homes~~ nursing homes, and other health facilities under the
25 following conditions:

- 26 (1) The North Carolina Medical Board has adopted regulations
27 governing the approval of individual physician assistants to order
28 medications, ~~tests~~ tests, and treatments with such limitations as the
29 Board may determine to be in the best interest of patient health and
30 ~~safety~~; safety.
- 31 (2) The physician assistant ~~has~~ holds a current ~~approval from~~ license
32 issued by the Board; ~~Board~~.
- 33 (3) The supervising physician has provided to the physician assistant
34 written instructions about ordering medications, ~~tests~~ tests, and
35 treatments, and when appropriate, specific oral or written
36 instructions for an individual patient, with provision for review by
37 the physician of the order within a reasonable time, as determined by
38 the Board, after the medication, ~~test~~ test, or treatment is ~~ordered~~; and
39 ordered.
- 40 (4) The hospital or other health facility has adopted a written policy,
41 approved by the medical staff after consultation with the nursing
42 administration, about ordering medications, ~~tests~~ tests, and
43 treatments, including procedures for verification of the physician

1 assistants' orders by nurses and other facility employees and such
2 other procedures as are in the interest of patient health and safety.

3 (e) Any prescription written by a physician assistant or order given by a physician
4 assistant for medications, ~~tests~~tests, or treatments shall be deemed to have been
5 authorized by the physician approved by the Board as the supervisor of the physician
6 assistant and ~~such~~the supervising physician shall be responsible for authorizing ~~such~~the
7 prescription or order.

8 (f) Any registered nurse or licensed practical nurse who receives an order from a
9 physician assistant for medications, ~~tests~~tests, or treatments is authorized to perform that
10 order in the same manner as if it were received from a licensed physician."

11 Section 6. This act is effective when it becomes law.