

SS SCS HCS HB 390 -- ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS

This bill establishes registration for anesthesiologist assistants under the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts. The bill:

(1) Allows certified registered nurse anesthetists to practice without collaborative practice arrangements, as long as they are practicing under the direct supervision of a physician, podiatrist, or dentist;

(2) Allows anesthesiologist assistants to assist a supervising anesthesiologist in formulating and executing an anesthesia care plan for patients. Anesthesiologist assistants are given authority to obtain patient history, perform relevant physical exams, pretest and calibrate anesthesia delivery systems, interpret information while in consultation with an anesthesiologist, establish airway intervention, administer vasoactive and other anesthetic drugs, adjust vasoactive infusions, and perform tasks not prohibited by law while under the supervision of an anesthesiologist;

(3) Requires an anesthesiologist to be responsible for the oversight of the health care services rendered by an anesthesiologist assistant. An anesthesiologist is limited to supervising no more than four anesthesiologist assistants;

(4) Prohibits anesthesiologist assistants from prescribing medications and controlled substances, conducting activities which are beyond the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist, practicing without the supervision of an anesthesiologist, and holding themselves out as being a physician;

(5) Requires anesthesiologist faculty members of anesthesiologist assistant programs operating in this state to be board certified. Anesthesiologist faculty members are allowed to supervise no more than two students at one time;

(6) Requires applicants for licensure to make application with the board and pay the required fees;

(7) Allows the board to issue temporary and inactive licenses;

(8) Requires retiring anesthesiologist assistants to file an affidavit with the board stating their intentions and the date of retirement;

(9) Gives the board the authority to negotiate reciprocal compacts with other states and to license qualified applicants

from other states;

(10) Requires the board to promulgate rules pertaining to application forms, certification, registration, and fees;

(11) Grants the board the authority to refuse to issue, suspend, or renew licenses and states allowable causes for the board to file complaints with the Administrative Hearing Commission;

(12) Prohibits any person from practicing as an anesthesiologist assistant without a license, unless the person is in a certified program under direct supervision of an anesthesiologist or is in a hospital residency program to become an anesthesiologist;

(13) Requires that all continuing education be completed prior to license renewal. Licensees must complete the examination for continued demonstration of qualification every six years;

(14) Requires all fees collected by the Division of Professional Registration to be deposited to the credit of the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts Fund;

(15) Requires all supervising anesthesiologists to adopt protocols that delineate the services provided and the manner of supervision;

(16) Gives the governing boards of hospitals the authority to limit the functions and activities of anesthesiologist assistants;

(17) Prohibits persons from holding themselves out as being anesthesiologist assistants without being duly licensed by the board; and

(18) Establishes the Advisory Commission for Anesthesiologist Assistants.

Violation of any provision of the bill is a class A misdemeanor.