

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1205

5 By: Representative Magie
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS ANESTHESIOLOGIST
9 ASSISTANT ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF
10 ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS
14 ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT ACT.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 95, is amended to add an
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:
22

Subchapter 10 – Anesthesiologist Assistant Act

17-95-1001. Title.

25 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Arkansas
26 Anesthesiologist Assistant Act”.
27

17-95-1002. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

31 (1) “Anesthesiologist assistant” means a graduate of an approved
32 program who is licensed to perform medical services delegated and directly
33 supervised by a supervising anesthesiologist;

34 (2) “Approved program” means a program for the education and
35 training of anesthesiologist assistants approved by the Arkansas State
36 Medical Board; and



1 (3) "Direct supervision" means the on-site, personal supervision
 2 by an anesthesiologist who is:

3 (A) Present in the office or surgical or obstetrical suite
 4 when the procedure is being performed in that office or surgical or
 5 obstetrical suite; and

6 (B) In all instances immediately available to provide
 7 assistance and direction to the anesthesiologist assistant while anesthesia
 8 services are being performed.

9
 10 17-95-1003. Powers and duties.

11 (a) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall:

12 (1) Examine, license, and renew the licenses of qualified
 13 applicants;

14 (2)(A) Maintain an up-to-date list of every person licensed to
 15 practice under this chapter.

16 (B) The list shall show the licensee's last known place of
 17 employment, last known place of residence, and the date and number of the
 18 license;

19 (3) Prosecute persons who violate this chapter and incur
 20 necessary expenses of the prosecution;

21 (4) Keep a record of all proceedings of the board and make the
 22 record available to the public for inspection during reasonable business
 23 hours;

24 (5) Conduct hearings regarding discipline of a licensee or
 25 denial, revocation, or suspension of a licensee; and

26 (6)(A) Share information on a case-by-case basis of a person
 27 whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied.

28 (B) The information shall include the following:

29 (i) The name of the person whose license has been
 30 suspended, revoked, or denied;

31 (ii) The Social Security number of the person whose
 32 license has been suspended, revoked, or denied;

33 (iii) The type and cause of the action;

34 (iv) The date of a penalty incurred;

35 (v) The penalty incurred; and

36 (vi) The length of the penalty incurred.

1 (C) The information shall be available for public
2 inspection during reasonable business hours and shall be supplied to similar
3 boards in other states upon request.

4 (b) The board may:

5 (1) Promulgate rules as necessary to enforce the provisions of
6 this chapter consistent with the state law;

7 (2) Employ personnel as necessary to assist the board in
8 performing its function under this chapter;

9 (3) Establish license renewal requirements and procedures as
10 deemed appropriate;

11 (4)(A) Secure the services of resource consultants as deemed
12 necessary by the board.

13 (B) Resource consultants shall be reimbursed for all
14 actual and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in consultative service
15 to the board;

16 (5)(A) Enter into agreements or contracts, consistent with state
17 law, with outside organizations for the purpose of developing, administering,
18 grading, or reporting the results of the licensing examinations.

19 (B) The outside organization shall be capable of providing
20 an examination that meets the standards of the National Commission for
21 Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants or its equivalent; and

22 (6) Establish license examination fees by rule.

23
24 17-95-1004. Licensing.

25 (a) A person applying for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant
26 shall submit an application to the Arkansas State Medical Board on forms
27 approved by the board.

28 (b)(1) The application shall not be effective for more than one (1)
29 year from the date of original submission of the application and fee.

30 (2) After one (1) year from the date that the original
31 application and fee have been received in the office of the board, a new
32 application and fee shall be required from any applicant who desires
33 licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant.

34 (c) Application information shall be submitted no later than fifteen
35 (15) days before the meeting at which the applicant desires the application
36 to be considered.

1
2 17-95-1005. Application for licensure.

3 (a)(1) An applicant for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant
4 shall submit an application on a form approved by the Arkansas State Medical
5 Board.

6 (2)(A) The applicant shall submit two (2) personalized and
7 individualized letters of recommendation from anesthesiologists.

8 (B)(i) Letters of recommendation shall be composed and
9 signed by the applicant's supervising physician or, for recent graduates, the
10 faculty physician, and give details of the applicant's clinical skills and
11 ability.

12 (ii) Each letter shall be addressed to the board and
13 shall have been written no more than six (6) months before the filing of the
14 application for licensure.

15 (b)(1) The applicant shall have obtained a passing score on the
16 examination administered through the National Commission for Certification of
17 Anesthesiologist Assistants.

18 (2) The passing score shall be established by the National
19 Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants.

20 (c) The applicant shall be certified in advanced cardiac life support.

21
22 17-95-1006. Supervisory relationship.

23 (a) An anesthesiologist or a group of anesthesiologists, upon entering
24 into a supervisory relationship with an anesthesiologist assistant, shall
25 file with the Arkansas State Medical Board a written protocol, including
26 without limitation:

27 (1) The name, address, and license number of the
28 anesthesiologist assistant;

29 (2) The name, address, license number, and Drug Enforcement
30 Administration registration number of each anesthesiologist who will
31 supervise the anesthesiologist assistant;

32 (3) The address of the anesthesiologist assistant's primary
33 practice location and any other locations where the assistant may practice;

34 (4) The date the protocol was developed and the dates of all
35 revisions;

36 (5) The designation and signature of the primary supervising

1 anesthesiologist;

2 (6) The signatures of the anesthesiologist assistant and all
3 supervising anesthesiologists;

4 (7) The duties and functions of the anesthesiologist assistant;

5 (8) The conditions or procedures that require the personal
6 provision of care by an anesthesiologist; and

7 (9) The procedures to be followed in the event of an anesthetic
8 emergency.

9 (b) The protocol shall be:

10 (1) Filed with the board before the time that the
11 anesthesiologist assistant begins practice with the anesthesiologist or the
12 anesthesiology group; and

13 (2) Updated biennially.

14 (c) Anesthesiologist assistants may perform the following duties under
15 the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist:

16 (1) Obtain a comprehensive patient history and present the
17 history to the supervising anesthesiologist;

18 (2) Pretest and calibrate anesthesia delivery systems and
19 monitor, obtain, and interpret information from the systems and monitors;

20 (3) Assist the anesthesiologist with implementation of
21 monitoring techniques;

22 (4) Establish basic and advanced airway interventions, including
23 intubations of the trachea and perform ventilator support;

24 (5) Administer intermittent vasoactive drugs and start and
25 adjust vasoactive infusions;

26 (6) Administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory
27 drugs;

28 (7) Assist the anesthesiologist with the performance of epidural
29 anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic procedures;

30 (8) Administer blood, blood products, and supportive fluids;

31 (9) Support life functions during anesthesia health care,
32 including induction and intubation procedures, the use of appropriate
33 mechanical supportive devices, and the management of fluid, electrolyte, and
34 blood component balances;

35 (10) Recognize and take appropriate corrective action for
36 abnormal patient responses to anesthesia, adjunctive medication, or other

1 forms of therapy;

2 (11) Participate in management of the patient while in the post-
 3 anesthesia recovery area, including the administration of supporting fluids;
 4 and

5 (12) Place special peripheral and central venous and arterial
 6 lines for blood sampling and monitoring as appropriate.

7 (d)(1) The supervising anesthesiologist shall delegate only tasks and
 8 procedures to the anesthesiologist assistant that are within the supervising
 9 anesthesiologist's scope of practice.

10 (2) The anesthesiologist assistant may work in any setting that
 11 is within the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist's
 12 practice.

13 (e) Continuity of supervision in practice settings requires the
 14 anesthesiologist assistant to document in the anesthesia record any change in
 15 supervisor.

16 (f) The tasks and procedures performed by the anesthesiologist
 17 assistant shall be documented in the appropriate medical record.

18
 19 17-95-1007. Licensure without examination.

20 (a) A person who was engaged in anesthesiology work for at least one
 21 (1) year before the effective date of this chapter is entitled to receive a
 22 license without examination.

23 (b) A person seeking licensure under this section shall register with
 24 the Arkansas State Medical Board before December 31, 2017, and shall pay the
 25 license fee.

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 27 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act shall become effective on and
 28 after January 1, 2018.