

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

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

*As Engrossed: H2/8/17*

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1205

5 By: Representatives Magie, *Henderson*  
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

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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:  
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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”.  
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#### 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.

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10       17-95-1003. Powers and duties.

11       (a) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall:

12           (1) License and renew the licenses of qualified applicants;

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

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

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

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

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

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

27           (B) The information shall include the following:

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

30           (ii) The type and cause of the action;

31           (iii) The date of a penalty incurred;

32           (iv) The penalty incurred; and

33           (v) The length of the penalty incurred.

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

1           (b) The board may:

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

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

6                   (3) Establish license renewal requirements and procedures as  
7 deemed appropriate;

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

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

13                   (5) Establish license examination fees by rule.

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15           17-95-1004. Licensing.

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

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

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

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26           17-95-1005. Application for licensure.

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

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

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

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

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36           17-95-1006. Supervisory relationship.

1           (a) An anesthesiologist or a group of anesthesiologists, upon entering  
2 into a supervisory relationship with an anesthesiologist assistant, shall  
3 file with the Arkansas State Medical Board a written protocol, including  
4 without limitation:

5                   (1) The name, address, and license number of the  
6 anesthesiologist assistant;

7                   (2) The name, address, license number, and Drug Enforcement  
8 Administration registration number of each anesthesiologist who will  
9 supervise the anesthesiologist assistant;

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

12                   (4) The date the protocol was developed and the dates of all  
13 revisions;

14                   (5) The designation and signature of the primary supervising  
15 anesthesiologist;

16                   (6) The signatures of the anesthesiologist assistant and all  
17 supervising anesthesiologists;

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

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

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

23           (b) The protocol shall be filed with the board before the time that  
24 the anesthesiologist assistant begins practice with the anesthesiologist or  
25 the anesthesiology group.

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

28                   (1) Obtain a comprehensive patient history and present the  
29 history to the supervising anesthesiologist;

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

32                   (3) Assist the anesthesiologist with implementation of  
33 monitoring techniques;

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

36                   (5) Administer intermittent vasoactive drugs and start and

1 adjust vasoactive infusions;

2 (6) Administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory  
3 drugs;

4 (7) Assist the anesthesiologist with the performance of epidural  
5 anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic procedures;

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

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

11 (10) Recognize and take appropriate corrective action for  
12 abnormal patient responses to anesthesia, adjunctive medication, or other  
13 forms of therapy;

14 (11) Participate in management of the patient while in the post-  
15 anesthesia recovery area, including the administration of supporting fluids;  
16 and

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

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

22 (2) The anesthesiologist assistant may work in any setting that  
23 is within the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist's  
24 practice.

25 (e) Continuity of supervision in practice settings requires the  
26 anesthesiologist assistant to document in the anesthesia record any change in  
27 supervisor.

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

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31 17-95-1007. Licensure without examination.

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

35 (b) A person seeking licensure under this section shall register with  
36 the Arkansas State Medical Board before December 31, 2017, and shall pay the

1 license fee.

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

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*/s/Magie*

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