

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5147

February Session, 2022



AN ACT CONCERNING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 21a-408 of the 2022 supplement to the general
- 2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
- 3 (Effective January 1, 2023):
- 4 As used in this section, sections 21a-408a to 21a-408o, inclusive, as
- 5 amended by this act, and sections 21a-408r to 21a-408v, inclusive, unless
- 6 the context otherwise requires:
- 7 (1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an advanced practice
- 8 registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378;
- 9 (2) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in
- 10 section 21a-420;
- 11 (3) "Cultivation" includes planting, propagating, cultivating, growing
- 12 and harvesting;
- 13 (4) "Debilitating medical condition" means (A) cancer, glaucoma,
- 14 positive status for human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune
- 15 deficiency syndrome, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, damage to
- 16 the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological

- 17 indication of intractable spasticity, epilepsy or uncontrolled intractable 18 seizure disorder, cachexia, wasting syndrome, Crohn's disease, 19 posttraumatic stress disorder, irreversible spinal cord injury with 20 objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, cerebral palsy, 21 cystic fibrosis or terminal illness requiring end-of-life care, except, if the 22 qualifying patient is under eighteen years of age, "debilitating medical 23 condition" means terminal illness requiring end-of-life care, irreversible 24 spinal cord injury with objective neurological indication of intractable 25 spasticity, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, severe epilepsy or uncontrolled intractable seizure disorder, or (B) any medical condition, medical 26 27 treatment or disease approved for qualifying patients by the 28 Department of Consumer Protection and posted online pursuant to 29 section 21a-408*l*;
- 30 (5) "Dispensary facility" means a place of business where marijuana 31 may be dispensed, sold or distributed in accordance with this chapter 32 and any regulations adopted thereunder to qualifying patients and 33 caregivers and for which the department has issued a dispensary facility 34 license pursuant to this chapter;
 - (6) "Employee" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;
 - (7) "Institutional animal care and use committee" means a committee that oversees an organization's animal program, facilities and procedures to ensure compliance with federal policies, guidelines and principles related to the care and use of animals in research;
 - (8) "Institutional review board" means a specifically constituted review body established or designated by an organization to protect the rights and welfare of persons recruited to participate in biomedical, behavioral or social science research;
 - (9) "Laboratory" means a laboratory located in the state that is licensed by the department to provide analysis of marijuana and that meets the licensure requirements set forth in section 21a-246, as amended by this act;

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- 48 (10) "Laboratory employee" means a person who is registered as a 49 laboratory employee pursuant to section 21a-408r;
- 50 (11) "Licensed dispensary" or "dispensary" means an individual who 51 is a licensed pharmacist employed by a dispensary facility or hybrid 52 retailer;
- 53 (12) "Producer" means a person who is licensed as a producer pursuant to section 21a-408i;
- 55 (13) "Marijuana" means marijuana, as defined in section 21a-240;
- 56 (14) "Nurse" means a person who is licensed as a nurse under chapter 57 378;
- 58 (15) "Palliative use" means the acquisition, distribution, transfer, 59 possession, use or transportation of marijuana or paraphernalia relating 60 to marijuana, including the transfer of marijuana and paraphernalia 61 relating to marijuana from the patient's caregiver to the qualifying 62 patient, to alleviate a qualifying patient's symptoms of a debilitating 63 medical condition or the effects of such symptoms, but does not include 64 any such use of marijuana by any person other than the qualifying 65 patient;
- 66 (16) "Paraphernalia" means drug paraphernalia, as defined in section 67 21a-240;
- 68 (17) "Physician" means a person who is licensed as a physician under 69 chapter 370; [, but does not include a physician assistant, as defined in 70 section 20-12a;]
- 71 (18) "Physician assistant" means a person who is licensed as a 72 physician assistant under chapter 370;
- [(18)] (19) "Caregiver" means a person, other than the qualifying patient and the qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, who is eighteen years of age or older

and has agreed to undertake responsibility for managing the well-being of the qualifying patient with respect to the palliative use of marijuana, provided (A) in the case of a qualifying patient (i) under eighteen years of age and not an emancipated minor, or (ii) otherwise lacking legal capacity, such person shall be a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of such qualifying patient, and (B) in the case of a qualifying patient eighteen years of age or older or an emancipated minor, the need for such person shall be evaluated by the qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse and such need shall be documented in the written certification;

[(19)] (20) "Qualifying patient" means a person who: (A) Is a resident of Connecticut, (B) has been diagnosed by a physician, physician assistant or [an] advanced practice registered nurse as having a debilitating medical condition, and (C) (i) is eighteen years of age or older, (ii) is an emancipated minor, or (iii) has written consent from a custodial parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of such person that indicates that such person has permission from such parent, guardian or other person for the palliative use of marijuana for a debilitating medical condition and that such parent, guardian or other person will (I) serve as a caregiver for the qualifying patient, and (II) control the acquisition and possession of marijuana and any related paraphernalia for palliative use on behalf of such person. "Qualifying patient" does not include an inmate confined in a correctional institution or facility under the supervision of the Department of Correction;

[(20)] (21) "Research program" means a study approved by the Department of Consumer Protection in accordance with this chapter and undertaken to increase information or knowledge regarding the growth or processing of marijuana, or the medical attributes, dosage forms, administration or use of marijuana to treat or alleviate symptoms of any medical conditions or the effects of such symptoms;

[(21)] (22) "Research program employee" means a person who (A) is registered as a research program employee under section 21a-408t, or (B) holds a temporary certificate of registration issued pursuant to

- 109 section 21a-408t;
- [(22)] (23) "Research program subject" means a person registered as a
- research program subject pursuant to section 21a-408v;
- [(23)] (24) "Usable marijuana" means the dried leaves and flowers of
- the marijuana plant, and any mixtures or preparations of such leaves
- and flowers, that are appropriate for the palliative use of marijuana, but
- does not include the seeds, stalks and roots of the marijuana plant; and
- [(24)] (25) "Written certification" means a written certification issued
- by a physician, physician assistant or [an] advanced practice registered
- nurse pursuant to section 21a-408c, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 2. Section 21a-408a of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes
- 120 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective
- 121 *January* 1, 2023):
- 122 (a) A qualifying patient shall register with the Department of
- 123 Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-408d, as amended by this
- act, prior to engaging in the palliative use of marijuana. A qualifying
- patient who has a valid registration certificate from the Department of
- 126 Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of section 21a-408d, as
- amended by this act, and complies with the requirements of sections
- 128 21a-408 to 21a-408m, as amended by this act, inclusive, shall not be
- subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but
- 130 not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or
- privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary
- action by a professional licensing board, for the palliative use of
- 133 marijuana if:
- 134 (1) The qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or
- advanced practice registered nurse has issued a written certification to
- the qualifying patient for the palliative use of marijuana after the
- physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has
- prescribed, or determined it is not in the best interest of the patient to
- prescribe, prescription drugs to address the symptoms or effects for

- which the certification is being issued;
- 141 (2) The combined amount of marijuana possessed by the qualifying 142 patient and the caregiver for palliative use does not exceed five ounces;
- 143 (3) The qualifying patient has not more than one caregiver at any 144 time; and
- 145 (4) Any cannabis plants grown by the qualifying patient in his or 146 home is in compliance with subsection (b) of section 21a-408d, as 147 amended by this act, and any applicable regulations.
- (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section do not apply to:
 - (1) Any palliative use of marijuana that endangers the health or wellbeing of a person other than the qualifying patient or the caregiver; or
 - (2) The ingestion of marijuana (A) in a motor bus or a school bus or in any other moving vehicle, (B) in the workplace, (C) on any school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college or university property, unless such college or university is participating in a research program and such use is pursuant to the terms of the research program, (D) in any public place, or (E) in the presence of a person under the age of eighteen, unless such person is a qualifying patient or research program subject. For the purposes of this subdivision, (i) "presence" means within the direct line of sight of the palliative use of marijuana or exposure to second-hand marijuana smoke, or both; (ii) "public place" means any area that is used or held out for use by the public whether owned or operated by public or private interests; (iii) "vehicle" means a vehicle, as defined in section 14-1; (iv) "motor bus" means a motor bus, as defined in section 14-1; and (v) "school bus" means a school bus, as defined in section 14-1.
- Sec. 3. Section 21a-408c of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1*, 2023):

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- (a) A physician, physician assistant or [an] advanced practice registered nurse may issue a written certification to a qualifying patient that authorizes the palliative use of marijuana by the qualifying patient. Such written certification shall be in the form prescribed by the Department of Consumer Protection and shall include a statement signed and dated by the qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in such physician's, physician assistant's or advanced practice registered nurse's professional opinion, the qualifying patient has a debilitating medical condition and the potential benefits of the palliative use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks of such use to the qualifying patient.
- (b) Any written certification for the palliative use of marijuana issued by a physician, physician assistant or [an] advanced practice registered nurse under subsection (a) of this section shall be valid for a period not to exceed one year from the date such written certification is signed and dated by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse. Not later than ten calendar days after the expiration of such period, or at any time before the expiration of such period should the qualifying patient no longer wish to possess marijuana for palliative use, the qualifying patient or the caregiver shall destroy all usable marijuana possessed by the qualifying patient and the caregiver for palliative use.
- (c) A physician, physician assistant or [an] advanced practice registered nurse shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing or other professional licensing board, for providing a written certification for the palliative use of marijuana under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, if:
- (1) The physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered

- 202 nurse has diagnosed the qualifying patient as having a debilitating 203 medical condition;
 - (2) The physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has explained the potential risks and benefits of the palliative use of marijuana to the qualifying patient and, if the qualifying patient lacks legal capacity, to a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of the qualifying patient;
 - (3) The written certification issued by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse is based upon the physician's, physician assistant's or advanced practice registered nurse's professional opinion after having completed a medically reasonable assessment of the qualifying patient's medical history and current medical condition made in the course of a bona fide health care professional-patient relationship; and
 - (4) The physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has no financial interest in a cannabis establishment, except for retailers and delivery services, as such terms are defined in section 21a-420.
 - (d) A <u>physician assistant or</u> nurse shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by the <u>Connecticut Medical Examining Board</u>, Board of Examiners for Nursing [,] or other professional licensing board, for administering marijuana to a qualifying patient or research program subject in a hospital or health care facility licensed by the Department of Public Health.
 - (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, sections 21a-408 to 21a-408b, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, and sections 21a-408d to 21a-408o, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, a <u>physician assistant or</u> an advanced practice registered nurse shall not issue a written certification

- to a qualifying patient when the qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition is glaucoma.
- Sec. 4. Section 21a-408d of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):
- 238 (a) Each qualifying patient who is issued a written certification for the 239 palliative use of marijuana under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of 240 section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, and the caregiver of such 241 qualifying patient, shall register with the Department of Consumer 242 Protection. Such registration shall be effective from the date the 243 Department of Consumer Protection issues a certificate of registration 244 until the expiration of the written certification issued by the physician, 245 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse. The 246 qualifying patient and the caregiver shall provide sufficient identifying 247 information, as determined by the department, to establish the personal 248 identity of the qualifying patient and the caregiver. If the qualifying 249 patient is under eighteen years of age and not an emancipated minor, 250 the custodial parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of 251 the qualifying patient shall also provide a letter from both the qualifying 252 patient's care provider and a physician who is board certified in an area 253 of medicine involved in the treatment of the debilitating condition for 254 which the qualifying patient was certified that confirms that the 255 palliative use of marijuana is in the best interest of the qualifying 256 patient. A physician may issue a written certification for the palliative 257 use of marijuana by a qualifying patient who is under eighteen years of 258 age, provided such written certification shall not be for marijuana in a 259 dosage form that requires that the marijuana be smoked, inhaled or 260 vaporized. The qualifying patient or the caregiver shall report any 261 change in the identifying information to the department not later than 262 five business days after such change. The department shall issue a 263 registration certificate to the qualifying patient and to the caregiver and 264 may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed twenty-five dollars, for each 265 registration certificate issued under this subsection. Any registration

- fees collected by the department under this subsection shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund.
- (b) Any qualifying patient who is eighteen years of age or older may cultivate up to three mature cannabis plants and three immature cannabis plants in the patient's primary residence at any given time, provided such plants are secure from access by any individual other than the patient or patient's caregiver and no more than twelve cannabis plants may be grown per household.
 - (c) A dispensary shall not dispense any marijuana products in a smokable, inhalable or vaporizable form to a qualifying patient who is under eighteen years of age or such qualifying patient's caregiver.
 - (d) Information obtained under this section shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, except that reasonable access to registry information obtained under this section shall be provided to: (1) State agencies, federal agencies and local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of investigating or prosecuting a violation of law; (2) physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses and pharmacists for the purpose of providing patient care and drug therapy management and monitoring controlled substances obtained by the qualifying patient; (3) public or private entities for research or educational purposes, provided no individually identifiable health information may be disclosed; (4) a licensed dispensary for the purpose of complying with sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act; (5) a qualifying patient, but only with respect to information related to such qualifying patient or such qualifying patient's caregiver; or (6) a caregiver, but only with respect to information related to such caregiver's qualifying patient.
 - Sec. 5. Section 21a-408m of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

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- (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to establish (1) a standard form for written certifications for the palliative use of marijuana issued by physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, and (2) procedures for registrations under section 21a-408d, as amended by this act. Such regulations, if any, shall be adopted after consultation with the Board of Physicians established in section 21a-408l.
- (b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to establish a reasonable fee to be collected from each qualifying patient to whom a written certification for the palliative use of marijuana is issued under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, for the purpose of offsetting the direct and indirect costs of administering the provisions of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act. The commissioner shall collect such fee at the time the qualifying patient registers with the Department of Consumer Protection under subsection (a) of section 21a-408d, as amended by this act. Such fee shall be in addition to any registration fee that may be charged under said subsection. The fees required to be collected by the commissioner from qualifying patients under this subsection shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund.
- (c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt or amend regulations, as applicable, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 21a-408l. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 21a-408l, and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting or amending such regulations the commissioner shall adopt policies and procedures to implement the provisions of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 21a-408, as amended by

- 330 this act, that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner 331 shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web 332 site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the 333 State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior 334 to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or 335 procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption 336 of such policies or procedures as a final regulation pursuant to section 337 4-172 or forty-eight months from October 1, 2021, if such policies or 338 procedures have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review 339 committee for consideration under section 4-170. Such policies and 340 procedures and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, how the 341 department shall:
- 342 (1) Accept applications for the issuance and renewal of registration 343 certificates for qualifying patients and caregivers;
- 344 (2) Establish criteria for adding medical conditions, medical 345 treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical conditions that 346 qualify for the palliative use of marijuana;
 - (3) Establish a petition process under which members of the public may submit petitions, regarding the addition of medical conditions, medical treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical conditions;
 - (4) Establish requirements for the growing of cannabis plants by a qualifying patient in his or her primary residence as authorized under section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, including requirements for securing such plants to prevent access by any individual other than the patient or the patient's caregiver, the location of such plants and any other requirements necessary to protect public health or safety;
- 357 (5) Develop a distribution system for marijuana for palliative use that provides for:
- 359 (A) Marijuana production facilities within this state that are housed 360 on secured grounds and operated by producers;

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- 361 (B) The transfer of marijuana between dispensary facilities; and
- 362 (C) Distribution of marijuana for palliative use to qualifying patients 363 or their caregivers by dispensary facilities, hybrid retailers and delivery 364 services, as such terms are defined in section 21a-420; and
 - (6) Ensure an adequate supply and variety of marijuana to dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers to ensure uninterrupted availability for qualifying patients, based on historical marijuana purchase patterns by qualifying patients.
- Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 21a-246 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January* 1, 2023):
 - (a) No person within this state shall manufacture, wholesale, repackage, supply, compound, mix, cultivate or grow, or by other process produce or prepare, controlled substances without first obtaining a license to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and no person within this state shall operate a laboratory for the purpose of research or analysis using controlled substances without first obtaining a license to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, except that such activities by pharmacists or pharmacies in the filling and dispensing of prescriptions or activities incident thereto, or the dispensing or administering of controlled substances by dentists, physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice podiatrists, registered nurses or veterinarians, or other persons acting under their supervision, in the treatment of patients shall not be subject to the provisions of this section, and provided laboratories for instruction in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, pharmacology pharmacognosy in institutions duly licensed for such purposes in this state shall not be subject to the provisions of this section except with respect to narcotic drugs and schedule I and II controlled substances. Upon application of any physician or physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378, the Commissioner of Consumer

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393 Protection shall without unnecessary delay, (1) license such physician to 394 possess and supply marijuana for the treatment of glaucoma or the side 395 effects of chemotherapy, or (2) license such physician assistant or 396 advanced practice registered nurse to possess and supply marijuana for 397 the treatment of the side effects of chemotherapy. No person outside this 398 state shall sell or supply controlled substances within this state without 399 first obtaining a license to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer 400 Protection, provided no such license shall be required of a manufacturer 401 whose principal place of business is located outside this state and who 402 is registered with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or other 403 federal agency, and who files a copy of such registration with the 404 appropriate licensing authority under this chapter.

Sec. 7. Section 21a-253 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

Any person may possess or have under his control a quantity of marijuana less than or equal to that quantity supplied to him pursuant to a prescription made in accordance with the provisions of section 21a-249 by (1) a physician licensed under the provisions of chapter 370 and further authorized by subsection (a) of section 21a-246, as amended by this act, by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to possess and supply marijuana for the treatment of glaucoma or the side effects of chemotherapy, or (2) a physician assistant licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under the provisions of chapter 378, and further authorized by subsection (a) of section 21a-246, as amended by this act, by said commissioner to possess and supply marijuana for the treatment of the side effects of chemotherapy.

- Sec. 8. Section 7 of public act 21-9 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):
- 422 (a) As used in this section:
- 423 (1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an advanced practice

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- registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes;
- 425 (2) "Physician" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408 426 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;
- (3) "Physician assistant" has the same meaning as provided in section
 21a-408 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;
- [(3)] (4) "Qualifying patient" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and
- [(4)] (5) "Written certification" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.
 - (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408n, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or any other section, regulation, rule, policy or procedure concerning the certification of medical marijuana patients, a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse may issue a written certification to a qualifying patient and provide any follow-up care using telehealth services during the period beginning on the effective date of this section and ending on June 30, 2023, provided all other requirements for issuing the written certification to the qualifying patient and all recordkeeping requirements are satisfied.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following		
sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2023	21a-408
Sec. 2	January 1, 2023	21a-408a
Sec. 3	January 1, 2023	21a-408c
Sec. 4	January 1, 2023	21a-408d
Sec. 5	January 1, 2023	21a-408m
Sec. 6	January 1, 2023	21a-246(a)
Sec. 7	January 1, 2023	21a-253
Sec. 8	January 1, 2023	PA 21-9, Sec. 7

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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 6(a)(2), "advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant" was changed to "physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse" for consistency; and in section 7(2), "an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under the provisions of chapter 378 or a physician assistant licensed under the provisions of chapter 370" was changed to "a physician assistant licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under the provisions of chapter 378," for consistency.

GL Joint Favorable Subst.