

2011 -- H 5672

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Introduced By: Representatives Ferri, Cimini, Bennett, Hull, and Edwards

Date Introduced: March 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-54-20.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-54 entitled "Physician
2 Assistants" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-54-20.1. Immunity from liability for gratuitous emergency assistance.** -- No person
4 licensed under the provisions of this chapter or ~~members~~ [member](#) of the same profession licensed
5 to practice in other states of the United States [or member of the same profession credentialed by a](#)
6 [federal employer](#) who voluntarily and gratuitously, and other than in the ordinary course of his or
7 her employment or practice, renders emergency medical assistance to a person in need shall be
8 liable for civil damages for any personal injuries resulting from acts or omissions by those
9 persons in rendering the emergency care which may constitute ordinary negligence. The
10 immunity granted by this section shall not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, willful,
11 wanton negligence or when the medical assistance is rendered at any hospital, physician's office
12 or other health care delivery entity where those services are normally rendered.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 5-54 of the General Laws entitled "Physician Assistants" is hereby
14 amended by adding thereto the following section:

15 **5-54-27. Participation in disaster and emergency care.** – [A person licensed under the](#)
16 [provisions of this chapter or a member of the same profession licensed to practice in other states](#)
17 [of the United States or a member of the same profession credentialed by a federal employer who](#)
18 [voluntarily and gratuitously, and other than in the ordinary course of his or her employment or](#)
19 [practice, renders emergency medical assistance during an emergency or a state or local disaster](#)

1 may render such care without supervision as set forth in subdivision 5-54-2(10), or with such
2 supervision as is available. Any physician who supervises a physician assistant providing medical
3 care in response to such an emergency or state or local disaster shall not be required to meet the
4 supervising physician requirements set forth in subdivision 5-54-2(10).

5 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

1 This act would grant immunity from liability for gratuitous emergency assistance to state-
2 licensed and federally-credentialed physician assistants, and would allow physician assistants to
3 participate in disaster and emergency care with any available physician supervision or without
4 physician supervision if none is available.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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