

SENATE BILL 1935

By McNally

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,  
relative to interventional pain management.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-126, is amended by adding a new subsection (f) as follows:

(f) An advanced practice nurse shall only perform invasive procedures involving any portion of the spine, spinal cord, sympathetic nerves or block of major peripheral nerves in any setting not licensed under title 68, chapter 11 under the direct supervision of a Tennessee physician licensed pursuant to chapter 6 or 9 of this title who is actively practicing spinal injections and has current privileges to do so at a facility licensed pursuant to title 68, chapter 11. The direct supervision provided by a physician in this subsection (f) shall only be offered by a physician who meets the qualifications established in § 63-6-241(a)(1) or (a)(3) or § 63-9-119(a)(1) or (a)(3). For purposes of this subsection (f), direct supervision is defined as being physically present in the same building as the advanced practice nurse at the time the invasive procedure is performed. This subsection (f) shall not apply to an advanced practice nurse performing major joint injections except sacroiliac injections, soft tissue injections or epidurals for surgical anesthesia or labor analgesia in unlicensed settings.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-126(e), is amended by deleting the language “Nothing” at the beginning of the subsection and substituting instead the following:

With the exception of subsection (f), nothing

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-19-107, is amended by adding a new subdivision (5) as follows:

(5) A physician assistant shall only perform invasive procedures involving any portion of the spine, spinal cord, sympathetic nerves or block of major peripheral nerves in any setting not licensed under title 68, chapter 11 under the direct supervision of a Tennessee physician licensed pursuant to chapter 6 or 9 of this title who is actively practicing spinal injections and has current privileges to do so at a facility licensed pursuant to title 68, chapter 11. The direct supervision provided by a physician in this subsection shall only be offered by a physician who meets the qualifications established in § 63-6-241(a)(1) or (a)(3) or § 63-9-119(a)(1) or (a)(3). For purposes of this subdivision (5), direct supervision is defined as being physically present in the same building as the physician assistant at the time the invasive procedure is performed. This subdivision (5) shall not apply to a physician assistant performing major joint injections except sacroiliac injections or soft tissue injections in unlicensed settings.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 6, Part 2, is amended by adding a new section as follows:

63-6-241.

(a) A physician licensed pursuant to this chapter may only practice interventional pain management if the licensee is either:

(1) Board certified through the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in one of the following medical specialties:

(A) Anesthesiology;

(B) Neurological surgery;

(C) Orthopedic surgery;

(D) Physical medicine and rehabilitation; or

(E) Any other board certified physician who has completed an ABMS subspecialty board in pain medicine or completed an ACGME-accredited pain fellowship;

(2) A recent graduate in a medical specialty listed in (a)(1) not yet eligible to apply for ABMS board certification; provided, there is a practice relationship with a physician who meets the requirements of subdivision (a)(1) or an osteopathic physician who meets the requirements of § 63-9-119(a)(1); or

(3) A licensee who is not board certified in one of the specialties listed in subdivision (a)(1) but is board certified in a different ABMS specialty and has completed a post-graduate training program in interventional pain management approved by the board.

(b) For purposes of this section, interventional pain management is the practice of performing invasive procedures involving any portion of the spine, spinal cord, sympathetic nerves or block of major peripheral nerves in any setting not licensed under title 68, chapter 11.

(c) The board is authorized to define through rulemaking the scope and length of the practice relationship established in subdivision (a)(2).

(d) A physician who provides direct supervision of an advanced practice nurse or a physician's assistant pursuant to § 63-7-126 or § 63-19-107 must meet the requirements set forth in subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(3).

(e) A physician who violates this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to § 63-6-214, including, but not limited to, civil penalties of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for every day this section is violated.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 9, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section as follows:

63-9-119.

(a) A physician licensed in this chapter may only practice interventional pain management if the licensee is either:

(1) Board certified through the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) in one of the following medical specialties:

(A) Anesthesiology;

(B) Neuromusculoskeletal medicine;

(C) Orthopedic surgery;

(D) Physical medicine and rehabilitation; or

(E) Any other board certified physician who has completed an ABMS subspecialty board in pain medicine or completed an ACGME-accredited pain fellowship;

(2) A recent graduate of a medical specialty listed in subdivision (a)(1) not yet eligible to apply for AOA specialty certification; provided, there is a practice relationship with an osteopathic physician who meets the requirements of subdivision (a)(1) or a physician who meets the requirements of § 63-6-241(a)(1); or

(3) A licensee who is not board certified in one of the specialties listed in subdivision (a)(1) but is board certified in a different AOA specialty and has completed a post-graduate training program in interventional pain management approved by the board.

(b) For purposes of this section, interventional pain management is the practice of performing invasive procedures involving any portion of the spine,

spinal cord, sympathetic nerves or block of major peripheral nerves in any setting not licensed under title 68, chapter 11.

(c) The board is authorized to define through rulemaking the scope and length of the practice relationship established in subdivision (a)(2).

(d) An osteopathic physician who provides direct supervision of an advanced practice nurse or a physician's assistant pursuant to § 63-7-126 or § 63-19-107 must meet the requirements set forth in subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(3).

(e) An osteopathic physician who violates this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to § 63-9-111, including, but not limited to, civil penalties of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for every day this section is violated.

SECTION 5. This act shall be effective January 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.