



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 259 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Hackett

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Revises the law regulating physician assistant practice

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The State Medical Board might realize a minimal decrease in administrative costs since it will no longer have to perform certain duties, such as establishing a formulary for physician assistants. However, as a result of the changes relating to physician assistant practice, there could be costs for any additional complaints received or investigations conducted.
- The State Medical Board could realize an increase in license fee revenue if the number of individuals seeking licensure increases as a result of the elimination of the three-year service requirement for a physician assistant who practices in another jurisdiction, in the armed forces, or the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill makes a number of revisions regarding the law regulating the practice of physician assistants. These are discussed below.

Physician assistant practice

Prescriptive authority and furnishing samples

The bill potentially expands the authority of physician assistants to prescribe drugs by eliminating the State Medical Board's authority to adopt a physician assistant formulary. While the bill eliminates the formulary, the Board maintains its authority to adopt rules governing physician-delegated prescriptive authority. The bill also requires the Board to issue a prescriber number to each physician assistant who is authorized to prescribe under a supervision agreement with a physician. The bill permits a physician assistant to delegate to another person the task of administering a drug only if the physician assistant is authorized to prescribe that drug. Additionally, the bill eliminates a provision requiring the Medical Board to establish standards and procedures for physician assistant delegation of drug administration.

The bill also removes a requirement that the drugs and therapeutic devices personally furnished as samples be in the physician assistant's physician-delegated prescriptive authority. This allows a physician assistant to personally furnish samples that are not in the physician assistant's physician-delegated prescriptive authority as long as other conditions, unchanged by the bill, are met.

Anesthesia

The bill expands a physician assistant's scope of anesthesia care by authorizing a physician assistant in a health care facility to perform rapid intubation and procedural sedation, as well as to order those procedures or the drugs needed to perform them.

Supervision agreements

Currently, each physician assistant and supervising physician must enter into a supervision agreement. Once the Medical Board approves the agreement, the physician may begin supervising the physician assistant. The bill increases from three to five the number of physician assistants that a physician may supervise at any one time.

Fiscal impact

It is possible that the State Medical Board could see a minimal reduction in administrative costs since it will no longer have to establish the formulary or establish standards and procedures relating to the delegation of drug administration. However, if there are any additional complaints resulting from this expansion of practice, the Board may realize an increase in costs to conduct additional investigations. If a physician assistant is able to perform additional services, local and state health programs could realize a savings since physician assistants are typically reimbursed at a lower rate than physicians.

Out-of-state, military, and U.S. Public Health Service physician assistants

Currently, a physician assistant who has practiced for at least three consecutive years in another jurisdiction, in the armed forces, or the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps may acquire Ohio licensure. This three-year service requirement is in lieu of the requirement that the physician assistant have certain educational degrees. The bill eliminates this three-year service requirement.

Fiscal impact

The State Medical Board could realize an increase in the number of individuals seeking licensure as physician assistants as a result of this elimination. As such, the Board could realize an increase in license fee revenue, as well as a corresponding increase in administrative costs to process the licenses and regulate additional licensees.