

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-133

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly

**A Bill**

JMB/JMB  
HOUSE BILL

By: Representative L. Johnson

Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor  
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
ASSISTANT ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF  
ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS  
ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT ACT; AND TO  
PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
ASSISTANTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 95, is amended to add an  
additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 12 – Arkansas Anesthesiologist Assistant Act

17-95-1201. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Arkansas  
Anesthesiologist Assistant Act”.

17-95-1202. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Anesthesiologist assistant” means a graduate of an approved  
program who is licensed to perform services delegated and directly supervised

1 by a supervising anesthesiologist;

2 (2) "Approved program" means a program for the education and  
3 training of anesthesiologist assistants approved by the Arkansas State  
4 Medical Board; and

5 (3) "Direct supervision" means the on-site, personal supervision  
6 by an anesthesiologist who is:

7 (A) Present in the office or surgical or obstetrical suite  
8 when a procedure is being performed in the office or surgical or obstetrical  
9 suite; and

10 (B) In all instances immediately available to provide  
11 assistance and direction to the anesthesiologist assistant while anesthesia  
12 services are being performed.

13  
14 17-95-1203. Arkansas State Medical Board – Powers and duties under  
15 subchapter.

16 (a) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall:

17 (1) License and renew the licenses of qualified applicants under  
18 this subchapter;

19 (2)(A) Maintain a current list of every person licensed to  
20 practice under this subchapter.

21 (B) The list under subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section  
22 shall show:

23 (i) The licensee's last known place of residence;  
24 and

25 (ii) The date and number of the license;

26 (3) Prosecute persons who violate this subchapter and incur  
27 necessary expenses of the prosecution;

28 (4) Keep a record of all proceedings of the board under this  
29 subchapter and make the record available to the public for inspection during  
30 reasonable business hours;

31 (5) Conduct hearings regarding discipline of a licensee under  
32 this subchapter or denial, revocation, or suspension of a license under this  
33 subchapter; and

34 (6)(A) Share information on a case-by-case basis of a person  
35 whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied under this subchapter.

36 (B) The information under subdivision (a)(6)(A) of this

1 section shall include:

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

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

5 (iii) The date upon which a penalty is imposed;

6 (iv) The type of penalty imposed; or

7 (v) The duration of the penalty imposed.

8 (C) The information under subdivision (a)(6)(A) of this  
9 section shall be available for public inspection during reasonable business  
10 hours and shall be supplied to licensing entities in other states upon  
11 request.

12 (b) The board may:

13 (1) Promulgate rules as necessary to enforce this subchapter  
14 consistent with state law;

15 (2) Employ personnel as necessary to assist the board in  
16 performing its duties under this subchapter;

17 (3) Establish license renewal requirements and procedures under  
18 this subchapter as deemed appropriate by the board ;

19 (4)(A) Secure the services of resource consultants as deemed  
20 necessary by the board in performing its duties under this subchapter.

21 (B) The board shall reimburse resource consultants for all  
22 actual and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in consultative service  
23 to the board; and

24 (5) Establish license examination fees under this subchapter by  
25 rule.

26

27 17-95-1204. Licensing.

28 (a) A person applying for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant  
29 under this subchapter shall submit an application to the Arkansas State  
30 Medical Board on forms approved by the board.

31 (b) An application under this section is not effective for more than  
32 one (1) year from the date of the original submission of the application and  
33 fee, after which time an applicant shall submit to the board a new  
34 application and fee.

35 (c) To qualify for licensure under this subchapter, an applicant under  
36 this section shall:

1           (1)(A) Obtain a passing score on the examination administered  
2 through the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist  
3 Assistants.

4           (B) A passing score under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this  
5 section shall be established by the National Commission for Certification of  
6 Anesthesiologist Assistants; and

7           (2) Be certified in advanced cardiac life support.

8  
9           17-95-1205. Supervisory relationship.

10          (a) An anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist group, upon entering into  
11 a supervisory relationship with a licensed anesthesiologist assistant, shall  
12 file with the Arkansas State Medical Board a written protocol, including  
13 without limitation:

14           (1) The name, address, and license number of the  
15 anesthesiologist assistant;

16           (2) The name, address, license number, and United States Drug  
17 Enforcement Administration registration number of each anesthesiologist who  
18 will supervise the anesthesiologist assistant;

19           (3) The address of the anesthesiologist assistant's primary  
20 practice location where the anesthesiologist assistant may practice;

21           (4) The date the protocol was developed and the date of all  
22 revisions;

23           (5) The designation and signature of the primary supervising  
24 anesthesiologist;

25           (6) The signatures of the anesthesiologist assistant and all  
26 supervising anesthesiologists;

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

28           (8) The conditions or procedures that require the provision of  
29 care by a supervising anesthesiologist; and

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

32          (b) The protocol required under subsection (a) of this section shall  
33 be filed with the board before the anesthesiologist assistant begins practice  
34 with the supervising anesthesiologist or anesthesiology group.

35          (c) An anesthesiologist assistant may perform the following duties  
36 under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist:

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

3           (2) Pretest and calibrate anesthesia delivery systems and  
4 monitor, obtain, and interpret information from the anesthesia delivery  
5 systems;

6           (3) Assist the supervising anesthesiologist with implementation  
7 of monitoring techniques;

8           (4) Establish basic and advanced airway interventions, including  
9 intubations of the trachea and performance of ventilator support;

10          (5) Administer intermittent vasoactive drugs and start and  
11 adjust vasoactive infusions;

12          (6) Administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory  
13 drugs;

14          (7) Perform epidural anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic  
15 procedures;

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

17          (9) Support life functions during the administration of  
18 anesthesia, including without limitation induction and intubation procedures,  
19 the use of appropriate mechanical supportive devices, and the management of  
20 fluids, electrolytes, and blood component balances;

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

24          (11) Participate in management of the patient while in the post-  
25 anesthesia recovery area, including the administration of supporting fluids;  
26 and

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

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

32          (2) The anesthesiologist assistant may work in any setting that  
33 is within the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist's  
34 practice.

35          (e) Continuity of supervision in practice settings requires the  
36 anesthesiologist assistant to document in the anesthesia record any change in

1 supervising anesthesiologist.

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

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6 Referred by Representative L. Johnson

7 Prepared by: JMB/JMB

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