

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1251

5 By: Representatives L. Johnson, F. Allen, Barnes, K. Ferguson, Gramlich, Long, Magie, K. Moore, Perry,
6 Pilkington, J. Richardson
7 By: Senators K. Hammer, Irvin, D. Wallace, Flippo, G. Leding, F. Love, J. Payton
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS ANESTHESIOLOGIST
11 ASSISTANT ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF
12 ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14
15 TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS
16 ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT ACT; AND TO
17 PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF
18 ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS.
19

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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

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

25 Subchapter 12 – Arkansas Anesthesiologist Assistant Act

26
27 17-95-1201. Title.

28 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Arkansas
29 Anesthesiologist Assistant Act”.
30

31 17-95-1202. Definitions.

32 As used in this subchapter:

33 (1) “Anesthesiologist assistant” means a graduate of an approved
34 program who is licensed to perform services delegated and directly supervised
35 by a supervising anesthesiologist;

36 (2) “Approved program” means a program for the education and



1 training of anesthesiologist assistants approved by the Arkansas State
 2 Medical Board; and

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

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

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

11
 12 17-95-1203. Arkansas State Medical Board – Powers and duties under
 13 subchapter.

14 (a) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall:

15 (1) License and renew the licenses of qualified applicants under
 16 this subchapter;

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

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

21 (i) The licensee's last known place of residence;
 22 and

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

24 (3) Discipline persons who violate this subchapter and incur
 25 necessary expenses of the prosecution;

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

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

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

34 (B) The information under subdivision (a)(6)(A) of this
 35 section shall include:

36 (i) The name of the person whose license has been

1 suspended, revoked, or denied;

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

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

4 (iv) The type of penalty imposed; or

5 (v) The duration of the penalty imposed.

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

10 (b) The board may:

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

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

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

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

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

22 (5) Establish license examination fees under this subchapter by
23 rule.

24
25 17-95-1204. Licensing.

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

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

33 (c)(1) To qualify for licensure under this subchapter, an applicant
34 under this section shall obtain a passing score on the examination
35 administered through the National Commission for Certification of
36 Anesthesiologist Assistants.

1 (2) A passing score under subdivision (c)(1) of this section
2 shall be established by the National Commission for Certification of
3 Anesthesiologist Assistants.

4
5 17-95-1205. Supervisory relationship.

6 (a) An anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist group, upon entering into
7 a supervisory relationship with a licensed anesthesiologist assistant, shall
8 file with the Arkansas State Medical Board a written protocol, including
9 without limitation:

10 (1) The name, address, and license number of the
11 anesthesiologist assistant;

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

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

17 (4) The date the protocol was developed and the date of all
18 revisions;

19 (5) The designation and signature of the primary supervising
20 anesthesiologist;

21 (6) The signatures of the anesthesiologist assistant and all
22 supervising anesthesiologists;

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (2) Pretest and calibrate anesthesia delivery systems and
36 monitor, obtain, and interpret information from the anesthesia delivery

1 systems;

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

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

6 (5) Administer intermittent vasoactive drugs and start and
7 adjust vasoactive infusions;

8 (6) Administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory
9 drugs;

10 (7) Perform epidural anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic
11 procedures;

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

13 (9) Support life functions during the administration of
14 anesthesia, including without limitation induction and intubation procedures,
15 the use of appropriate mechanical supportive devices, and the management of
16 fluids, electrolytes, and blood component balances;

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

20 (11) Participate in management of the patient while in the post-
21 anesthesia recovery area, including the administration of supporting fluids;
22 and

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

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

28 (2) The anesthesiologist assistant may work in any setting that
29 is within the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist's
30 practice.

31 (e) Continuity of supervision in practice settings requires the
32 anesthesiologist assistant to document in the anesthesia record any change in
33 supervising anesthesiologist.

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

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