ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT AMENDMENTS

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Brad L. Dee

Senate Sponsor: ____________

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a new licensing chapter in the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing for Anesthesiologist Assistants.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- puts anesthesiologist assistants under supervision of the Physician Assistant Licensing Board;
- requires licensure;
- establishes qualifications for licensure;
- establishes terms for the license; and
- defines unlawful and unprofessional conduct.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

58-70a-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 37

ENACTS:
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 58-70a-201 is amended to read:

58-70a-201. Board.

(1) There is created the Physician Assistant Licensing Board, which consists of seven members:

(a) three licensed physicians, at least two of whom are individuals who are supervising or who have supervised a physician assistant;

(b) three physician assistants, one of whom is involved in the administration of an approved physician assistant education program within the state; and

(c) one person from the general public.

(2) The board shall be appointed and serve in accordance with Section 58-1-201.

(3) The duties and responsibilities of the board are:

(a) in accordance with Sections 58-1-202 and 58-1-203[. In addition, the board shall];

(b) in accordance with Section 58-70b-201, and this Subsection (3), to function as the board for individual's licensed under Chapter 70b, Anesthesiologist Assistant Licensing Act;

and

(c) to designate one of its members on a permanent or rotating basis to:

[(a)] (i) assist the division in reviewing complaints concerning the unlawful or unprofessional conduct of a licensee; and

[(b)] (ii) advise the division in its investigation of these complaints.

(4) A board member who has, under Subsection (3)(c), reviewed a complaint or
advised in its investigation may be disqualified from participating with the board when the 
board serves as a presiding officer in an adjudicative proceeding concerning the complaint. 
The board member may be disqualified:
(a) on the member's own motion, due to actual or perceived bias or lack of objectivity;
(b) upon challenge for cause raised on the record by any party to the adjudicative
proceeding.
Section 2. Section 58-70b-101 is enacted to read:
CHAPTER 70b. ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT LICENSING ACT
58-70b-101. Title.
This chapter is known as the "Anesthesiologist Assistant Licensing Act."
Section 3. Section 58-70b-102 is enacted to read:
In addition to the definitions in Section 58-1-102, as used in this chapter:
(1) "Anesthesiologist assistant" means an allied health graduate of an accredited
anesthesiologist assistant program.
(2) "Board" means the Physician Assistant Licensing Board created in Section
58-70a-201.
(3) (a) "Practice of anesthesiologist assistant" means assisting a supervising
anesthesiologist with health care services delegated to the anesthesiologist assistant by the
supervising anesthesiologist in accordance with the acceptable medical practice and the
American Society of Anesthesiologists' guidance for best practice of anesthesia in a care team
model.
(b) The practice of anesthesiologist assistant is limited to performing the practice of
anesthesiologist assistant as described in Subsection (3)(a):
(i) under the supervision of a physician, as defined in Subsection (4), who:
(A) is licensed under Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or Chapter 68, Utah
Osteopathic Medical Practice Act; and
(B) has completed a residency program in anesthesia; and
(ii) as may be further limited by administrative rule adopted by the division in
consultation with the board.

(4) "Supervision" means a supervising anesthesiologist is immediately available in physical proximity that allows the anesthesiologist to return and re-establish direct contact with the patient to meet the medical needs and address any urgent or emergent clinical problems.

(5) "Unlawful conduct" is as defined in Sections 58-1-501 and 58-70b-501.

(6) "Unprofessional conduct" is as defined in Sections 58-1-501 and 58-70b-502 and as may be further defined by administrative rule adopted by the division in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

Section 4. Section 58-70b-201 is enacted to read:

Part 2. Board

58-70b-201. Board.

Anesthesiologist Assistants will be regulated by the Physician Assistant Licensing Board created in Section 58-70a-201.

Section 5. Section 58-70b-301 is enacted to read:

Part 3. Licensing

58-70b-301. Licensure required -- Issuance of licenses -- Effect on insurers.

(1) Beginning January 1, 2014, and except as provided in Section 58-1-307, a license is required to engage in the practice of anesthesiologist assistant.

(2) The division shall issue to any person who qualifies under this chapter a license to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require payment from insurers for anesthesiologist assistant services.

Section 6. Section 58-70b-302 is enacted to read:

58-70b-302. Qualifications for licensure -- Temporary license.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), each applicant for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant under this chapter shall:

(a) submit an application in a form prescribed by the division;

(b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63-38-3.2;

(c) be of good moral character;

(d) provide satisfactory documentation of having graduated from a program certified by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or its
successor organization;

(e) within 12 months of completing the training under Subsection (1)(d), pass the certification exam offered by the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA); and

(f) be certified by the NCCAA at the time of the application and throughout the term of the license.

(2) The division may issue a temporary license, in accordance with Section 58-1-303 and any other conditions established by rule, to an applicant who meets all of the requirements for licensure except the examination requirement of Subsection (1)(e).

Section 7. Section 58-70b-303 is enacted to read:


(1) The division shall issue each license under this chapter in accordance with a two-year renewal cycle established by rule. The division may by rule extend or shorten a renewal cycle by as much as one year to stagger the renewal cycles it administers.

(2) Each licensee shall, at the time of applying for renewal, demonstrate compliance with continuing education requirements established by rule by the division in collaboration with the board.

(3) Each license automatically expires on the expiration date shown on the license unless the licensee renews it in accordance with Section 58-1-308.

Section 8. Section 58-70b-401 is enacted to read:

Part 4. License Denial and Discipline


Grounds for refusing to issue a license to an applicant, for refusing to renew the license of a licensee, for revoking, suspending, restricting, or placing on probation the license of a licensee, for issuing a public or private reprimand to a licensee, and for issuing a cease and desist order shall be in accordance with Section 58-1-401.

Section 9. Section 58-70b-501 is enacted to read:

Part 5. Unlawful and Unprofessional Conduct

58-70b-501. Unlawful conduct.

"Unlawful conduct" includes, in addition to the definition in Section 58-1-501:

(1) using the title "anesthesiologist assistant" or any other title or designation tending to
indicate that the person is an anesthesiologist assistant unless that person has a current license
as an anesthesiologist assistant issued under this chapter; or

(2) engaging in the practice of anesthesiologist assistant without the supervision of an
anesthesiologist as required by Subsection 58-70b-102(3)(b).

Section 10. Section 58-70b-502 is enacted to read:

58-70b-502. Unprofessional conduct. "Unprofessional conduct" includes, in addition to the definition in Section 58-1-501 and
as may be further defined by rule:

(1) engaging in any act or practice in a professional capacity which the licensee is not
competent to perform through training or experience;

(2) failing to refer a client to other competent professionals when the licensee is unable
or unwilling to adequately support or serve the client;

(3) failing to maintain the confidentiality of any information received from a client,
unless released by the client or otherwise authorized or required by law; and

(4) exploiting a client for personal advantage, profit, or interest.