



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Assembly Bill 487

Assembly Amendment 2

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2011 Assembly Bill 487 (AB 487) provides that the Medical Examining Board (MEB) shall license as an anesthesiologist assistant (AA) an individual who meets certain requirements specified in the bill. AB 487 prohibits a person from practicing as an AA, or designating himself or herself as an AA, unless he or she is licensed as an AA by MEB.

AB 487 establishes certain practice standards applicable to AAs, including that an AA may assist in the delivery of medical care only under the supervision of an anesthesiologist and only as described in a supervision agreement meeting requirements specified in the bill.

AB 487 provides that a student in an AA training program may perform only medical care tasks assigned by an anesthesiologist, and an anesthesiologist may delegate the supervision of a student to a qualified anesthesia provider.

AB 487 creates a Council on Anesthesiologist Assistants (Council) and provides that, among other activities, the Council must guide, advise, and make recommendations to MEB regarding the promotion of the role of AAs in the delivery of health care services.

AB 487 was modified by **Assembly Amendment 2** in the following ways:

- Assembly Amendment 2 provides that the provision that a person who meets the requirements specified in the bill shall be licensed as an AA by MEB does not apply to a nurse anesthetist.
- Assembly Amendment 2 provides that an anesthesiologist may delegate supervision of a student in an AA training program to a qualified ***anesthesiologist, an anesthesiology fellow, an anesthesiology resident who has completed his or her first year of residency, or an AA***, rather than delegating supervision of the student to a qualified ***anesthesia provider***.

- Assembly Amendment 2 limits the manner in which an anesthesiologist may supervise students in a training program, as follows:
 - In no case may an anesthesiologist concurrently supervise, either directly or as a delegated act, more than two students in training to be an AA.
 - A nurse who is in a training program to become a nurse anesthetist and who is assisting an anesthesiologist as part of that training program must be supervised by an anesthesiologist who is supervising no more than one other nurse in such a training program.
- Assembly Amendment 2 provides that the Council shall *promote the safe and competent practice* of AAs in the delivery of health care services, rather than *guiding, advising, and making recommendations to MEB regarding the promotion of the role* of AAs in the delivery of health care services.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendment 2 to 2011 Assembly Bill 487 was offered by the Assembly Committee on Public Health and Public Safety on February 21, 2012. On that date, the committee recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 1.

BTL:jal