



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2009 Assembly Bill 671

Assembly Amendments 1 and 3

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Assembly Bill 671 provides for licensure of anesthesiologist assistants and provides that a person may not practice as an anesthesiologist assistant unless he or she is licensed by the Medical Examining Board (MEB) to do so. The term “anesthesiologist assistant” is defined as an individual licensed by the MEB to assist an anesthesiologist in the delivery of certain medical care with anesthesiologist supervision. The bill also creates a Council on Anesthesiologist Assistants in the Department of Regulation and Licensing to serve the MEB in an advisory capacity, with specified membership.

An anesthesiologist assistant may assist an anesthesiologist in the delivery of medical care only under the supervision of an anesthesiologist and only as described in a supervision agreement between the anesthesiologist assistant and an anesthesiologist who represents the anesthesiologist assistant’s employer. The supervising anesthesiologist must be immediately available in the same physical location or facility such that the supervising anesthesiologist is able to intervene if needed.

The bill also specifies the tasks that may be undertaken by an anesthesiologist assistant. The bill also requires the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin (UW) to direct to the School of Medicine and Public Health to study the feasibility of establishing a school of anesthesiologist assistants in the UW System.

Assembly Amendment 1 makes three changes in the bill. First, the amendment decreases the maximum duration of a temporary license from three years to 18 months. Second, the amendment modifies the provision of the bill that requires an applicant for a license to have passed the certifying examination administered by, or obtained active certification from, the National Commission on Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants or a successor entity. The amendment changes the “or” to “and,” so that the applicant for a license must satisfy both requirements. Finally, the amendment deletes the study on the feasibility of establishing a school of anesthesiologist assistants in the UW System.

Assembly Amendment 3 retains the bill's provision that allows an anesthesiologist to delegate the supervision of a student in an anesthesiologist assistant training program to a qualified anesthesia provider, but deletes the definition of "qualified anesthesia provider."

Legislative History

The Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1, adoption of Assembly Amendment 3, and passage of the bill as amended, all on votes of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0.

RNS:jal