



2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 487

January 24, 2012 – Introduced by Representatives SEVERSON, VAN ROY, VOS, SPANBAUER, BILLINGS, PASCH, ZEPNICK and PETROWSKI, cosponsored by Senators DARLING, SHILLING, KEDZIE and TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Public Health and Public Safety.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber* 448.015 (1); *to amend* 448.02 (1), 448.03 (2) (c), 448.03 (2)
2 (e), 448.03 (2) (k), 448.05 (1) (d) and 448.05 (6) (a); and *to create* 15.407 (7),
3 448.015 (1b), 448.015 (1c), 448.03 (1) (d), 448.03 (3) (g), 448.03 (7), 448.04 (1) (g),
4 448.05 (5w), 448.05 (6) (ar), 448.13 (3), 448.22 and 448.23 of the statutes;
5 **relating to:** licensing anesthesiologist assistants and creating the Council on
6 Anesthesiologist Assistants and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates licensure requirements and practice standards for anesthesiologist assistants.

The bill prohibits a person from practicing as an anesthesiologist assistant or representing or implying that the person is an anesthesiologist assistant unless the person holds a license to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant granted by the Medical Examining Board (board). The bill requires the board to issue a license to a person who has: 1) obtained a bachelor's degree; 2) completed an accredited anesthesiologist assistant program; and 3) passed a certifying examination. The board may also issue a license to a person who is licensed as an anesthesiologist assistant in another state, if that state authorizes a licensed anesthesiologist assistant to practice in the same manner and to the same extent as this state.

Under the bill, an anesthesiologist assistant may assist an anesthesiologist in the delivery of medical care only under the supervision of an anesthesiologist who

ASSEMBLY BILL 487

is immediately available and able to intervene if needed. The scope of an anesthesiologist assistant's practice is limited to assisting only the supervising anesthesiologist and performing only certain medical care tasks assigned by the supervising anesthesiologist. The medical care tasks are specified in the bill and include the following: 1) developing and implementing an anesthesia care plan; 2) implementing monitoring techniques; 3) pretesting and calibrating anesthesia delivery systems; 4) administering vasoactive drugs and starting and adjusting vasoactive infusions; 5) administering intermittent anesthetic, adjuvant, and accessory drugs; 6) implementing spinal, epidural, and regional anesthetic procedures; and 7) administering blood, blood products, and supportive fluids.

The bill requires an anesthesiologist assistant to be employed by one of certain health care providers specified in the bill and to enter into a supervision agreement with an anesthesiologist who represents the anesthesiologist assistant's employer. The supervision agreement must identify the anesthesiologist assistant's supervising anesthesiologist and define the scope of the anesthesiologist assistant's practice, and may limit the anesthesiologist assistant's practice to less than the full scope of anesthesiologist assistant practice authorized by the bill.

The bill authorizes a student anesthesiologist assistant to perform only medical care tasks assigned by an anesthesiologist, who may delegate the supervision of a student to a qualified anesthesiology provider. The bill also creates a five-member Council on Anesthesiologist Assistants to advise and make recommendations to the board.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 15.407 (7) of the statutes is created to read:
2 15.407 (7) COUNCIL ON ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS; DUTIES. There is created
3 a council on anesthesiologist assistants in the department of safety and professional
4 services and serving the medical examining board in an advisory capacity. The
5 council's membership shall consist of the following members, who shall be selected
6 from a list of recommended appointees submitted by the president of the Wisconsin
7 Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., after the president of the Wisconsin Society of
8 Anesthesiologists, Inc., has considered the recommendation of the Wisconsin

ASSEMBLY BILL 487

1 Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants for the appointee under par. (b), and who
2 shall be appointed by the medical examining board for 3-year terms:

3 (a) One member of the medical examining board.

4 (b) One anesthesiologist assistant licensed under s. 448.04 (1) (g).

5 (c) Two anesthesiologists.

6 (d) One lay member.

7 **SECTION 2.** 448.015 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 448.015 (1d).

8 **SECTION 3.** 448.015 (1b) of the statutes is created to read:

9 448.015 (1b) "Anesthesiologist" means a physician who has completed a
10 residency in anesthesiology approved by the American Board of Anesthesiology or
11 the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology, holds an unrestricted license,
12 and is actively engaged in clinical practice.

13 **SECTION 4.** 448.015 (1c) of the statutes is created to read:

14 448.015 (1c) "Anesthesiologist assistant" means an individual licensed by the
15 board to assist an anesthesiologist in the delivery of certain medical care with
16 anesthesiologist supervision.

17 **SECTION 5.** 448.02 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 448.02 (1) LICENSE. The board may grant licenses, including various classes
19 of temporary licenses, to practice medicine and surgery, to practice perfusion, to
20 practice as an anesthesiologist assistant, and to practice as a physician assistant.

21 **SECTION 6.** 448.03 (1) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

22 448.03 (1) (d) No person may practice as an anesthesiologist assistant unless
23 he or she is licensed by the board as an anesthesiologist assistant.

24 **SECTION 7.** 448.03 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

ASSEMBLY BILL 487**SECTION 7**

1 448.03 (2) (c) The activities of a medical student, respiratory care student,
2 perfusion student, anesthesiologist assistant student, or physician assistant student
3 required for such student's education and training, or the activities of a medical
4 school graduate required for training as required in s. 448.05 (2).

5 **SECTION 8.** 448.03 (2) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 448.03 (2) (e) Any person other than a physician assistant or an
7 anesthesiologist assistant who is providing patient services as directed, supervised
8 and inspected by a physician who has the power to direct, decide and oversee the
9 implementation of the patient services rendered.

10 **SECTION 9.** 448.03 (2) (k) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 448.03 (2) (k) Any persons, other than physician assistants, anesthesiologist
12 assistants, or perfusionists, who assist physicians.

13 **SECTION 10.** 448.03 (3) (g) of the statutes is created to read:

14 448.03 (3) (g) No person may designate himself or herself as an
15 "anesthesiologist assistant" or use or assume the title "anesthesiologist assistant" or
16 append to the person's name the words or letters "anesthesiologist assistant" or
17 "A.A." or any other titles, letters, or designation that represents or may tend to
18 represent the person as an anesthesiologist assistant unless he or she is licensed as
19 an anesthesiologist assistant by the board. An anesthesiologist assistant shall be
20 clearly identified as an anesthesiologist assistant.

21 **SECTION 11.** 448.03 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

22 448.03 (7) SUPERVISION OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS. An anesthesiologist
23 may not supervise more than the number of anesthesiologist assistants permitted
24 by reimbursement standards for Part A or Part B of the federal Medicare program
25 under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act, 42 USC 1395 to 1395hhh.

ASSEMBLY BILL 487

1 **SECTION 12.** 448.04 (1) (g) of the statutes is created to read:

2 448.04 (1) (g) *Anesthesiologist assistant license.* The board shall license as an
3 anesthesiologist assistant an individual who meets the requirements for licensure
4 under s. 448.05 (5w). The board may, by rule, provide for a temporary license to
5 practice as an anesthesiologist assistant. The board may issue a temporary license
6 to a person who meets the requirements under s. 448.05 (5w) and who is eligible to
7 take, but has not passed, the examination under s. 448.05 (6). A temporary license
8 expires on the date on which the board grants or denies an applicant permanent
9 licensure or on the date of the next regularly scheduled examination required under
10 s. 448.05 (6) if the applicant is required to take, but has failed to apply for, the
11 examination. An applicant who continues to meet the requirements for a temporary
12 license may request that the board renew the temporary license, but an
13 anesthesiologist assistant may not practice under a temporary license for a period
14 of more than 18 months.

15 **SECTION 13.** 448.05 (1) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 448.05 (1) (d) Be found qualified by three-fourths of the members of the board,
17 except that an applicant for a temporary license under s. 448.04 (1) (b) 1. and 3. ~~and~~,
18 (e), and (g) must be found qualified by 2 members of the board.

19 **SECTION 14.** 448.05 (5w) of the statutes is created to read:

20 448.05 (5w) **ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT LICENSE.** An applicant for a license
21 to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant shall submit evidence satisfactory to
22 board that the applicant has done all of the following:

23 (a) Obtained a bachelor's degree.

ASSEMBLY BILL 487**SECTION 14**

1 (b) Satisfactorily completed an anesthesiologist assistant program that is
2 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education
3 Programs, or by a predecessor or successor entity.

4 (c) Passed the certifying examination administered by, and obtained active
5 certification from, the National Commission on Certification of Anesthesiologist
6 Assistants or a successor entity.

7 **SECTION 15.** 448.05 (6) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 448.05 (6) (a) Except as provided in ~~par. pars.~~ (am) and (ar), the board shall
9 examine each applicant it finds eligible under this section in such subject matters as
10 the board deems applicable to the class of license or certificate which the applicant
11 seeks to have granted. Examinations may be both written and oral. In lieu of its own
12 examinations, in whole or in part, the board may make such use as it deems
13 appropriate of examinations prepared, administered, and scored by national
14 examining agencies, or by other licensing jurisdictions of the United States or
15 Canada. The board shall specify passing grades for any and all examinations
16 required.

17 **SECTION 16.** 448.05 (6) (ar) of the statutes is created to read:

18 448.05 (6) (ar) When examining an applicant for a license to practice as an
19 anesthesiologist assistant under par. (a), the board shall use the certification
20 examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of
21 Anesthesiologist Assistants or a successor entity. The board may license without
22 additional examination any qualified applicant who is licensed in any state or
23 territory of the United States or the District of Columbia and whose license
24 authorizes the applicant to practice in the same manner and to the same extent as
25 an anesthesiologist assistant is authorized to practice under s. 448.22 (2).

ASSEMBLY BILL 487

1 **SECTION 17.** 448.13 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

2 448.13 (3) Each person licensed as an anesthesiologist assistant shall, in each
3 2nd year at the time of application for a certificate of registration under s. 448.07,
4 submit proof of meeting the criteria for recertification by the National Commission
5 on Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants or by a successor entity, including any
6 continuing education requirements.

7 **SECTION 18.** 448.22 of the statutes is created to read:

8 **448.22 Anesthesiologist assistants. (1)** In this section, “supervision” means
9 the use of the powers of direction and decision to coordinate, direct, and inspect the
10 accomplishments of another, and to oversee the implementation of the
11 anesthesiologist’s intentions.

12 **(2)** An anesthesiologist assistant may assist an anesthesiologist in the
13 delivery of medical care only under the supervision of an anesthesiologist and only
14 as described in a supervision agreement between the anesthesiologist assistant and
15 an anesthesiologist who represents the anesthesiologist assistant’s employer. The
16 supervising anesthesiologist shall be immediately available in the same physical
17 location or facility in which the anesthesiologist assistant assists in the delivery of
18 medical care such that the supervising anesthesiologist is able to intervene if needed.

19 **(3)** A supervision agreement under sub. (2) shall do all of the following:

20 (a) Describe the supervising anesthesiologist.

21 (b) Define the practice of the anesthesiologist assistant consistent with subs.
22 (2), (4), and (5).

23 **(4)** An anesthesiologist assistant’s practice may not exceed his or her education
24 and training, the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist, and the
25 practice outlined in the anesthesiologist assistant supervision agreement. A medical

ASSEMBLY BILL 487**SECTION 18**

1 care task assigned by the supervising anesthesiologist to the anesthesiologist
2 assistant may not be delegated by the anesthesiologist assistant to another person.

3 (5) An anesthesiologist assistant may assist only the supervising
4 anesthesiologist in the delivery of medical care and may perform only the following
5 medical care tasks as assigned by the supervising anesthesiologist:

6 (a) Developing and implementing an anesthesia care plan for a patient.

7 (b) Obtaining a comprehensive patient history and performing relevant
8 elements of a physical exam.

9 (c) Pretesting and calibrating anesthesia delivery systems and obtaining and
10 interpreting information from the systems and from monitors.

11 (d) Implementing medically accepted monitoring techniques.

12 (e) Establishing basic and advanced airway interventions, including
13 intubation of the trachea and performing ventilatory support.

14 (f) Administering intermittent vasoactive drugs and starting and adjusting
15 vasoactive infusions.

16 (g) Administering anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory drugs.

17 (h) Implementing spinal, epidural, and regional anesthetic procedures.

18 (i) Administering blood, blood products, and supportive fluids.

19 (j) Assisting a cardiopulmonary resuscitation team in response to a life
20 threatening situation.

21 (k) Participating in administrative, research, and clinical teaching activities
22 specified in the supervision agreement.

23 (L) Supervising student anesthesiologist assistants.

24 (6) An anesthesiologist who represents an anesthesiologist assistant's
25 employer shall review a supervision agreement with the anesthesiologist assistant

ASSEMBLY BILL 487

1 at least annually. The supervision agreement shall be available for inspection at the
2 location where the anesthesiologist assistant practices. The supervision agreement
3 may limit the practice of an anesthesiologist assistant to less than the full scope of
4 practice authorized under sub. (5).

5 (7) An anesthesiologist assistant shall be employed by a health care provider,
6 as defined in s. 655.001 (8), that is operated in this state for the primary purpose of
7 providing the medical services of physicians or that is an entity described in s.
8 655.002 (1) (g), (h), or (i). If an anesthesiologist assistant's employer is not an
9 anesthesiologist, the employer shall provide for, and not interfere with, an
10 anesthesiologist's supervision of the anesthesiologist assistant.

11 (8) A student in an anesthesiologist assistant training program may assist only
12 an anesthesiologist in the delivery of medical care and may perform only medical
13 care tasks assigned by the anesthesiologist. An anesthesiologist may delegate the
14 supervision of a student in an anesthesiologist assistant training program to a
15 qualified anesthesia provider. This section shall not be interpreted to limit the
16 number of other qualified anesthesia providers an anesthesiologist may supervise.
17 A student in an anesthesiologist assistant training program shall be identified as a
18 student anesthesiologist assistant or an anesthesiologist assistant student and may
19 not be identified as an "intern," "resident," or "fellow."

20 **SECTION 19.** 448.23 of the statutes is created to read:

21 **448.23 Council on anesthesiologist assistants.** The council on
22 anesthesiologist assistants shall guide, advise, and make recommendations to the
23 board regarding the scope of anesthesiologist assistant practice and the promotion
24 of the role of anesthesiologist assistants in the delivery of health care services.

25 **SECTION 20. Nonstatutory provisions.**

