

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2961 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY HARRIS, BALDWIN, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI,
FAIRCHILD, FLEAGLE, GINGRICH, GOOD, HARHART, HARPER, HORSEY,
LEWIS, MYERS, O'NEILL, REICHLEY, SAYLOR, SOLOBAY, STERN,
THOMAS, WILT, YOUNGBLOOD AND PAYNE, NOVEMBER 9, 2004

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
NOVEMBER 9, 2004

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112),
2 entitled "An act relating to the right to practice medicine
3 and surgery and the right to practice medically related acts;
4 reestablishing the State Board of Medical Education and
5 Licensure as the State Board of Medicine and providing for
6 its composition, powers and duties; providing for the
7 issuance of licenses and certificates and the suspension and
8 revocation of licenses and certificates; providing penalties;
9 and making repeals," further providing for physician
10 assistant supervision.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 13(e) of the act of December 20, 1985
14 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, is
15 amended and the section is amended by adding subsections to
16 read:

17 Section 13. Physician assistants.

18 * * *

19 (e) Written agreement.--A physician assistant shall not
20 provide a medical service without a written agreement with one

or more physicians which provides for all of the following:

(1) Identifies and is signed by each physician the physician assistant will be assisting.

(2) Describes the manner in which the physician assistant will be assisting each named physician.

(3) Describes the nature and degree of supervision and direction each named physician will provide the physician assistant.

(4) Designates one of the named physicians as having the primary responsibility for supervising and directing the physician assistant.

(5) Has been approved by the board as satisfying the foregoing and as consistent with the restrictions contained in or authorized by this section.

[A physician assistant shall not assist a physician in a manner not described in the agreement or without the nature and degree of supervision and direction described in the agreement. The physician designated as having primary responsibility for the physician assistant shall not have primary responsibility for more than two physician assistants.]

(e.1) Manner of assistance.--A physician assistant shall not assist a physician in a manner not prescribed in the agreement or without the nature and degree of supervision and direction described in the agreement set forth in subsection (e).

(e.2) Number of physician assistants.--Except as provided in this subsection, the physician designated as having primary responsibility for the physician assistant shall not have primary responsibility for more than two physician assistants. However, a physician may make written application to the board to supervise no more than four physician assistants if a

1 hardship to patients in terms of access to health care would
2 result from limiting the number of physician assistants to two.
3 The board may allow a physician to supervise up to four
4 physician assistants for a period of not more than a total of
5 180 days. The board shall notify the physician of its decision
6 in writing by registered mail. Within two years of the effective
7 date of this subsection, the board shall promulgate regulations
8 necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

9 * * *

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.