THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1351 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY SONNEY, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, HARKINS, LUCAS, MILLARD, PICKETT AND READSHAW, MAY 8, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MAY 8, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), entitled
2   "An act requiring the licensing of practitioners of
3   osteopathic medicine and surgery; regulating their practice;
4   providing for certain funds and penalties for violations and
5   repeals," further providing for physician assistants.

6   The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

7 hereby enacts as follows:

8   Section 1. Section 10(g) of the act of October 5, 1978

9 (P.L.1109, No.261), known as the Osteopathic Medical Practice

10 Act, amended July 20, 2007 (P.L.316, No.47), is amended and the

11 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 Section 10. Licenses; exemptions; nonresident practitioners;

13   graduate students; biennial registration and

14   continuing medical education.

15   * * *

16   (g) The supervising physician shall file with the board an

17 application to utilize a physician assistant containing a

18 description of the manner in which the physician assistant will

19 assist the supervising physician in his practice, the method and

1 frequency of supervision, including, but not limited to, the

2 number and frequency of the patient record reviews required by

3 subsection (j.1) and the criteria for selecting patient records

4 for review when 100% review is not required, and the geographic

5 location of the physician assistant. There shall be no more than

6 four physician assistants for whom a physician has

7 responsibility or supervises pursuant to a written agreement at

8 any time. In health care facilities licensed under the act of

9 July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the "Health Care

10 Facilities Act," a physician assistant shall be under the

11 supervision and direction of a physician or physician group

12 pursuant to a written agreement, provided that a physician

13 supervises no more than four physician assistants at any time. A

14 physician may apply for a waiver to employ or supervise more

15 than four physician assistants at any time under this section

16 for good cause, as determined by the board. In cases where a

17 group of physicians will supervise a physician assistant, the

18 names of all supervisory physicians shall be included on the

19 application.

20   * * *

21   (j.1) Patient record review.--

22   (1) The approved physician shall countersign 100% of the

23   patient records completed by the physician assistant within a

24   reasonable time, which shall not exceed ten days, during each

25   of the following time periods:

26   (i) The first 12 months of the physician assistant's

27   practice post graduation and after the physician

28   assistant has fulfilled the criteria for licensure set

29   forth in subsection (f).

30   (ii) The first 12 months of the physician

1   assistant's practice in a new specialty in which the

2   physician assistant is practicing.

3   (iii) The first six months of the physician

4   assistant's practice in the same specialty under the

5   supervision of the approved physician, unless the

6   physician assistant has multiple approved physicians and

7   practiced under the supervision of at least one of those

8   approved physicians for six months.

9   (2) In the case of a physician assistant who is not

10   subject to 100% review of the physician assistant's patient

11   records pursuant to paragraph (1), the approved physician

12   shall personally review on a regular basis a selected number

13   of the patient records completed by the physician assistant.

14   The approved physician shall select patient records for

15   review on the basis of written criteria established by the

16   approved physician and the physician assistant. The number of

17   patient records reviewed shall be sufficient to assure

18   adequate review of the physician assistant's scope of

19   practice.

20   * * *

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