



SB 1486

Re-define the PA Advisory Committee

Senate Sponsors: Sen. Deanna Demuzio and Michael Noland

House Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Coulson

SUPPORT

Redefines the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee in the PA Practice Act.

This language would better define the role of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee by allowing the committee to advise and respond to the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation on significant matters related to the PA profession including: license application and renewals, disciplinary proceedings and rulemaking.

NEED

Currently the PA Advisory Committee can make recommendations to the Medical Licensing Board but there is no mechanism in place that allows the PA profession to communicate with or act as a resource for the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation which is the agency responsible for regulating physician assistants.

As the profession continues to grow, physician assistants and the Department can expect new issues to arise regarding scope of practice, dual licensure, continuing education and other regulatory requirements. This bill will simply provide the PAs with an avenue for communication and feedback to the Department on matters relevant to their practice.

BACKGROUND

The Physician Assistant Advisory Committee is comprised of 7 members appointed by the Governor: 3 physicians, 3 physician assistants and 1 public member.

PAs are members of health care teams headed by physicians. PAs provide medical and surgical services that would otherwise be provided by physicians. Each PA's responsibilities depend on the type of practice, his or her experience, the working relationship with the supervising physician, the physician's or institution's decisions about what can be delegated, and state law. Currently, there are 1,957 licensed PAs in Illinois. PAs provide quality patient care to over 5,871,000 patient visits in Illinois. Effective utilization of the PA skills results in appropriate and efficient care and high levels of patient satisfaction.

The PA profession is recognized nationally as one of the top five growing professions in the United States. The PA Programs across the U.S., excel in educating PA students and preparing them for their futures in the healthcare industry.

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