



SB 1487

Adding Emergency Disaster Language to PA Practice Act

Senate Sponsors: Sen. Deanna Demuzio - Michael Noland

House Sponsors: Rep. Elizabeth Coulson

SUPPORT

Adding emergency disaster language to the Physician Assistant Practice Act.

The language of the bill clarifies that in an emergency disaster setting, a PA may render care without a supervising physician until the emergency disaster management team arrives on the scene.

It also provides that a physician who supervises a PA in an emergency would not have to meet the regular requirements, such as providing documentation to the Department, prior to supervising a PA in an emergency.

NEED

This language would allow a physician assistant to provide immediate care in a disaster and then continue to provide care with the supervision provided by the emergency management team.

Present law requires PAs to provide care under the supervision of a physician. Currently there are PAs who are registered as emergency responders or members of triage teams who could not provide first aid in a disaster because they feel they would be in violation of the supervision requirements of their practice act. SB 1487 would correct that situation.

BACKGROUND

PAs are members of health care teams headed by physicians. PAs have the education and clinical training to 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 with 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.

Passed Senate: 57-0-0