

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1009 Physician Supervision Standards
SPONSOR(S): Benson
TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 2634

Table with 4 columns: REFERENCE, ACTION, ANALYST, STAFF DIRECTOR. Row 1: 1) Health Care Regulation Committee, Bell, Mitchell.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1009 amends s. 458.348, F.S, and creates s. 459.025, F.S., to define the term "physician office practice setting" and provide increased restrictions on supervision of advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) and physician assistants (PAs) who practice outside the physician (MDs and DOs) office practice setting.

The bill defines "physician office practice setting" as a business location where the physician delivers medical services, that is not a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, abortion clinic or other medical facility licensed by the Department of Health or Agency for Health Care Administration. The bill requires the physician to be physically present in the office at least 33 percent of its hours of operation to maintain its designation as a physician office practice setting.

If a physician is not present in the office practice setting 33 percent of the time, the business will be considered an "outside a physician office practice," and the office will not be considered a physician practice setting during the time the physician is not present. The definition of physician office practice setting does not depend on whether or not the business is physician owned.

The bill establishes requirements for supervision of advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) and physician assistants (PAs) who practice outside the physician office practice setting of the supervising physician. The supervising physician must:

- Maintain no more than two supervisory relationships at any one time.
Provide indirect supervision as defined by the Board of Medicine.
Ensure that the ARNP or PA has been practicing within the medical specialty area for a minimum of four consecutive years before providing care outside the supervising physician's office practice setting.
Delegate only tasks and procedures within the physician's practice and medical specialty area.
Ensure that the ARNP or PA clearly identify that they are an ARNP or PA to the patient.
Maintain a valid active Florida license and a valid federal controlled substance registry number.

The effective date of the bill is upon becoming law.

1 Rule 64B8-2.001(1)(b), F.A.C., provides the following definition: "indirect supervision" shall require only that the supervising licensee practice at a location within close physical proximity of the practice location of the supervised licensee and that the supervising licensee must be readily available for consultation as needed. "Close proximity" shall be within 20 miles or 30 minutes unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Medicine.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide Limited Government/Promote Personal Responsibility – The bill increases the regulation of physician office practice settings and creates a designation of “outside a physician office practice” with specific regulations.

Safeguard Individual Liberty – Patient safety may improve with increased supervision of ARNPs and PAs.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

HB 1009 amends s. 458.348, F.S, and creates s. 459.025, F.S., to define the term "physician office practice setting" and provides increased restrictions on supervision of advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) and physician assistants (PAs) who practice outside the physician (MDs and DOs) office practice setting.

The bill defines “physician office practice setting” as a business location where the physician delivers medical services, that is not a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, abortion clinic or other medical facility licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) or Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). The bill requires the physician to be physically present in the office at least 33 percent of its hours of operation to maintain its designation as a physician office practice setting.

If a physician is not present in the office practice setting 33 percent of the time, the business will be considered an “outside a physician office practice,” and the office will not be considered a physician practice setting during the time the physician is not present. The definition of physician office practice setting does not depend on whether or not the business is physician owned.

The bill establishes requirements for supervision of advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) and physician assistants (PAs) who practice outside the physician office practice setting of the supervising physician. The supervising physician must:

- Maintain no more than two supervisory relationships at any one time.
- Provide indirect supervision as defined by the Board of Medicine.²
- Ensure that the ARNP or PA has been practicing within the medical specialty area for a minimum of four consecutive years before providing care outside the supervising physician’s office practice setting.
- Delegate only tasks and procedures within the physician’s practice and medical specialty area.
- Ensure that the ARNP or PA clearly identify that they are an ARNP or PA to the patient.
- Maintain a valid active Florida license and a valid federal controlled substance registry number.

HB 1009 amends s. 459.025, F.S., to conform supervision requirements for ARNPs, PAs, emergency personnel, and electrologists providing laser hair removal, to provisions in chapter 458, the Medical Practice Act.

The effective date of the bill is upon becoming law.

² Rule 64B8-2.001(1)(b), F.A.C., provides the following definition: “indirect supervision” shall require only that the supervising licensee practice at a location within close physical proximity of the practice location of the supervised licensee and that the supervising licensee must be readily available for consultation as needed. “Close proximity” shall be within 20 miles or 30 minutes unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Medicine.

CURRENT SITUATION

According to the Department of Health, there are approximately 3,000 PAs, 9,500 ARNPs, and 33,000 allopathic and osteopathic physicians with active Florida licenses. PAs practice under the indirect supervision of an allopathic or osteopathic physician. ARNPs practice under a protocol of general supervision with a supervising allopathic or osteopathic physician. A physician may supervise up to 4 PAs at any one time. There is no limit on the number of ARNPs that a physician may supervise at any one time. ARNPs and PAs may practice without the supervising physician being on the premises.

Physician Assistants (PAs)

Physician assistants (PAs) are licensed to conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, and assist in surgery with physician supervision. This includes filling out prescriptions under the physician's authority. PAs practice in the areas of primary care medicine (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology), as well in surgery and surgical subspecialties.

Because of the close working relationship PAs have with physicians, PAs are trained in intensive master level programs designed to complement physician training based on the medical model, and accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. The average PA program curriculum is approximately 26 months long. Education consists of classroom and laboratory instruction in the basic medical and behavioral sciences (such as anatomy, pharmacology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and physical diagnosis), followed by clinical rotations in internal medicine, family medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine, and geriatric medicine.

Upon graduation, PAs take a national certification examination developed by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners. To maintain their national certification, PAs must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and sit for a recertification examination every six years.

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs)

Advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) are registered nurses with advanced master level³ training and clinical experience that enables them to diagnose and manage most common and many chronic illnesses, either independently or as part of a health care team. Training includes an intensive preceptorship under the direct supervision of a physician or an experienced nurse practitioner.

ARNPs are primary care providers who practice in ambulatory, acute and long-term care settings, including: neonatology; nurse-midwifery; pediatrics; school health; family and adult health; women's health; mental health; home care; and geriatrics. A nurse practitioner provides some care previously offered only by physicians, including the ability to prescribe medications under conditions of a protocol established with a physician.

³ Florida does not require ARNPs to have a master's degree but most ARNP programs are masters programs.

**Comparison of Regulation and Supervision of
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant
Practice in Florida**

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners	Physician Assistants
Statutory Authority	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurse Practice Act, Ch. 464, F.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Practice Act, Ch. 458, F.S. Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, Ch. 459, F.S.
Rules	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64B8-35, F.A.C. In addition to the practice of nursing, ARNPs may perform acts of medical diagnosis, treatment, prescription and prevention, as approved by the Joint Committee of Board of Medicine and Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing develops rules approved by the Joint Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64B8-30, F.A.C. All proposed rules must be approved by the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine.
Supervision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General supervision under protocols filed with department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct supervision means in the building, on-site with the PA. Indirect supervision means easy access by phone, beeper, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be supervised by Allopathic and osteopathic physicians, and dentists licensed under Ch. 458, 459, and 466, F.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be supervised by Allopathic and osteopathic physicians licensed under Ch. 458 and 459, F.S.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocols filed annually with the Department of Health. Protocols may include description of the nature of the practice, description of duties and management areas of the ARNP and duties of the physician. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocols only required for County Health Departments. Most PAs work under a protocol of indirect supervision (see Board of Medicine definition, 64B8-2.001(1)(b), F.A.C.).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restriction on number of ARNPs per physician. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physician may supervise only up to four PAs simultaneously.
Scope of Practice	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice in specialty area. Scope of practice may be limited by the supervising physician. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAs may be delegated tasks and procedures within scope of practice of supervising physician. Direct or indirect supervision required.

CURRENT LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

Statutory Provisions:

- Physician Assistants** - Sections 458.347(3) and 459.022(3), F.S., require that a physician may not supervise more than four licensed physician assistants at any one time. Each physician or group of physicians supervising a licensed physician assistant must be qualified in the medical areas performed by the physician assistant and are responsible and liable for the performance and acts and omissions of the physician assistant.

- **Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners** - Section 464.003(c), F.S., provides that the advanced registered nurse practitioner may, in addition to nursing diagnosis and nursing treatment, perform medical diagnosis and treatment, prescription, and operation identified and approved by a joint committee appointed by the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medicine. Approved acts must be performed under general supervision and protocols established with a medical doctor, osteopathic physician, or dentist licensed under Ch. 458, 459, or 466, F.S. The protocols must identify the medical acts to be performed and the conditions for their performance.

Administrative Rules:

Physician Assistants - 64B8-30.012, F.A.C., relating to physician assistant performance, requires:

- A supervising physician shall delegate only tasks and procedures to the physician assistant which are within the supervising physician's scope of practice.
- The decision to permit the physician assistant to perform a task or procedure under direct or indirect supervision is made by the supervising physician based on reasonable medical judgment regarding the probability of morbidity and mortality to the patient.
- Prescribing, dispensing, or compounding medicinal drugs and final diagnosis are not permitted to be delegated to a PA, except where expressly authorized by statute.
- All tasks and procedures performed by the physician assistant must be documented in the appropriate medical record.
- During the initial six months of supervision of each physician assistant, all documentation in a medical chart must be reviewed, signed and dated by a supervising physician within seven days.
- After the initial six months of supervision, a supervising physician must review, sign and date all documentation in medical charts by a physician assistant, within 30 days.

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners - 64B8-35.002, F.A.C.—relating to Standards for Protocols, requires:

- An ARNP shall only perform medical acts of diagnosis, treatment, and operation pursuant to a protocol between the ARNP and a Florida-licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician, or dentist.
- General supervision by the physician or dentist is required unless rules set a different level of supervision for a particular act.
- The number of persons to be supervised shall be limited to insure that an acceptable standard of medical care is rendered, based on risk to patient, experience, setting and availability of the physician or dentist.
- A Collaborative Practice Agreement is required that identifies the duties of the ARNP and the physician or dentist, and the management areas for which the ARNP is responsible, including:
 - (a) Conditions for which therapies may be initiated,
 - (b) Treatments that may be initiated by the ARNP, depending on patient condition and judgment of the ARNP, and
 - (c) Drug therapies that the ARNP may prescribe, initiate, monitor, alter, or order.
- The protocol agreement between the ARNP and physician is required to be filed annually with the department, and kept at the site of practice of each party to the protocol.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 458.348, F.S., relating to formal supervisory relationships to define the term "physician office practice setting" and provide increased restrictions on allopathic physicians who supervise advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) and physician assistants (PAs) who practice outside the physician office practice setting.

Section 2. Creates s. 459.025, F.S., to delineate formal supervisory relationships, to define the term “physician office practice setting,” and provide increased restrictions on osteopathic physicians who supervise advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) and physician assistants (PAs) who practice outside the physician office practice setting.

Section 3. Provides the bill shall take effect upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

See Fiscal Comments.

2. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The provisions of the bill restrict to two, the total number of ARNPs and PAs who may be supervised by a physician at any one time. Currently, there is no specified limit for ARNPs and supervision of PAs is limited to four. The Department of Health (DOH) estimates that this restriction may limit the access to health care services in remote areas.

The requirement that physician offices are not considered physician office practice settings when the physician is not present may limit physician use of ARNPs and PAs in their practices. Patient safety may improve with more physician supervision of ARNPs and PAs.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to DOH, the bill may increase the demands on the department to monitor the amount of time a physician is present in their office, and the level of supervision of ARNPs and PAs.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

2. Other:

The bill may violate the separation-of-powers doctrine.

The bill gives the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine the authority to adopt rules to administer the bill. The bill specifies that the rules may impose stricter standards than the requirements listed in the bill. This unlimited delegation of rule authority may be an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority under Article II, section 3, of the Florida Constitution.⁴

The separation-of-powers doctrine prevents the Legislature from delegating its constitutional duties. Legislative power involves the exercise of policy-related discretion over the content of law. However, the court warned, “when legislation is so lacking in guidelines that neither the agency nor the courts can determine whether the agency is carrying out the intent of the legislature in its conduct, then, in fact, the agency becomes the lawgiver rather than the administrator of the law.”⁵ The Legislature must promulgate standards sufficient to guide administrative agencies in the performance of their duties.⁶

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Rulemaking authority is provided by the bill.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

The bill amends provisions in chapters 458 and 459, F.S., that relate to physicians. The bill does not address the supervisory relationships of dentists, licensed under chapter 466, F.S., who can supervise ARNPs.

Proponents of HB 1009 have provided committee staff with information supporting the physician office requirements in the bill. Proponents assert that currently patients are being examined, diagnosed and treated, without physician contact or oversight. Proponents have also asserted that the bill prevents potential patient safety issues by creating minimum safety standards required of physicians that choose to enter into supervisory relationships with ARNPs and PAs.

Opponents of this bill have provided committee staff with information that HB 1009 places barriers on the practice of nursing and will drive ARNPs out of Florida. Opponents assert that the requirement for physicians to be present 33 percent of the time in order to maintain “physician office setting” designation is an arbitrary regulation. Opponents argue that current protocols for ARNPs (general supervision) and PAs (indirect supervision) provide sufficient patient safety.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

A strike-all amendment is being offered by the bill sponsor.

⁴ Article II, Section 3, of the Constitution of Florida state, “no person belonging to one branch shall exercise any powers appertaining to either branches unless expressly provided herein.”

⁵ See generally James P. Rhea and Patrick L. “Booter” Imhof, *An Overview of the 1996 Administrative Procedure*.

⁶ *Avatar Development Corporation v. State*, 723 So.2d 199, Fla. 1998.