

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Commerce and Consumer Services Committee

BILL: SB 1042

SPONSOR: Senator Crist

SUBJECT: Physical Examinations

DATE: March 7, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Siebert	Cooper	CM	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	HE	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill authorizes physician assistants and advanced registered nurse practitioners to conduct physical examinations of Class “G” permit and firefighting applicants.

This bill amends sections 493.6108 and 633.34 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Required physical examinations for Class “G” license applicants

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Licensing, regulates and licenses the private security industry in accordance with ch. 493, F.S. A number of different security and private investigator Classes (C, CC, D, M, MA, & MB) are permitted to bear a firearm and any such individual who bears a firearm is required to have a Class “G” license. As part of this licensing procedure applicants must pass a physical examination by a licensed physician to determine general physical fitness.¹

Required physical examinations for entrance into a firefighter training program

Firefighters are required to pass a physical examination before admittance into a firefighting training program.² Rule 69A-37.037, F.A.C., requires that the physical exam be performed by a licensed physician, surgeon or osteopath. The “Medical Examination” Form (D14-1022) must be

¹ Section 493.6108, F.S.

² Section 633.34(5), F.S.

submitted to the fire training school within 5 business days of the beginning of a firefighter training program.

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) & Physician Assistants (PAs)

ARNPs are registered nurses with advanced master level 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. A nurse practitioner provides some care previously offered only by physicians, including the ability to prescribe medications under protocols established by a physician. According to the Department of Health, there are approximately 11,210 licensed ARNPs practicing in Florida.

PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventative healthcare services as delegated by a physician. Working as members of a healthcare team, PAs take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, make diagnoses, and prescribe medications. The Department of Health reports there are approximately 4,000 practicing PAs in Florida. PAs work under the supervision of a physician. However, PAs may be the principal care providers in rural or inner city clinics, where a physician is present for only 1 or 2 days each week. In such cases, the PA confers with the supervising physician as needed.

According to the Board of Nursing and Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, most ARNPs and PAs are authorized to provide physical examinations and are currently doing so in hospitals, clinics, schools, physicians' offices, and in many other areas.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 493.6108, F.S., to expand those authorized to conduct physical examinations of Class "G" permit applicants to include ARNPs and PAs.

Section 2 amends s. 633.34, F.S., to expand those authorized to conduct physical examinations of firefighter applicants to include ARNPs and PAs.

Section 3 provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

By expanding the class of medical personnel who can give physical examinations, the bill may make the licensing process less costly for some applicants seeking a Class “G” license or entrance into a firefighter training program. According to the Florida ARNP organization, physical examinations conducted by ARNPs are billed at approximately 20 percent less than physical examinations conducted by physicians. The exact amount of cost savings for such individuals is unknown.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
