

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

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BILL: SB 152

INTRODUCER: Senator Grimsley

SUBJECT: Ordering of Medication

DATE: October 14, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Stovall	Stovall	HP	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			AHS	
3.			AP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 152 provides express authority for an advanced registered nurse practitioner to order *any* medication for administration to a patient in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or mobile surgical facility within the framework of an established protocol. The bill provides express authority in ch. 893, F.S., the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act, for a supervisory physician to authorize a physician assistant or an advanced registered nurse practitioner to order controlled substances for administration to a patient in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or mobile surgical facility.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Regulation of Physician Assistants in Florida**

Chapter 458, F.S., sets forth the provisions for the regulation of the practice of medicine by the Board of Medicine. Chapter 459, F.S., similarly sets forth the provisions for the regulation of the practice of osteopathic medicine by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine. Physician assistants (PAs) are regulated by both boards. Licensure of PAs is overseen jointly by the boards through the Council on Physician Assistants.<sup>1</sup>

Physician assistants are trained and required by statute to work under the supervision and control of medical physicians or osteopathic physicians.<sup>2</sup> The Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine have adopted rules that set out the general principles a supervising

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<sup>1</sup> The council consists of three physicians who are members of the Board of Medicine; one physician who is a member of the Board of Osteopathic Medicine; and a physician assistant appointed by the State Surgeon General. (See ss. 458.347(9) and 459.022(9), F.S.)

<sup>2</sup> Sections 458.347(4) and 459.022(4), F.S.

physician must use in developing the scope of practice of the PA under both direct<sup>3</sup> and indirect<sup>4</sup> supervision. A supervising physician's decision to permit a PA to perform a task or procedure under direct or indirect supervision must be based on reasonable medical judgment regarding the probability of morbidity and mortality to the patient. The supervising physician must be certain that the PA is knowledgeable and skilled in performing the tasks and procedures assigned.<sup>5</sup> Each physician or group of physicians supervising a licensed PA must be qualified in the medical areas in which the PA is to perform and must be individually or collectively responsible and liable for the performance and the acts and omissions of the PA.<sup>6</sup>

Current law allows a supervisory physician to delegate to a licensed PA the authority to prescribe or dispense any medication used in the physician's practice, except controlled substances, general anesthetics, and radiographic contrast materials.<sup>7</sup> However, Florida law does allow a supervisory physician to delegate authority to a PA to order any medication, which would include controlled substances, general anesthetics, and radiographic contrast materials, for a patient of the physician during the patient's stay in a facility licensed under ch. 395, F.S.<sup>8</sup>

### **Regulation of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners in Florida**

Chapter 464, F.S., governs the licensure and regulation of nurses in Florida. Nurses are licensed by the Department of Health and are regulated by the Board of Nursing.<sup>9</sup>

An advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) is a licensed nurse who is certified in advanced or specialized nursing.<sup>10</sup> Florida recognizes three types of ARNP: nurse practitioner (NP), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), and certified nurse midwife (CNM).<sup>11</sup> To be

<sup>3</sup> "Direct supervision" requires the physician to be on the premises and immediately available. (*See* Fla. Admin. Code R. 64B8-30.001(4) and 64B15-6.001(4).)

<sup>4</sup> "Indirect supervision" refers to the easy availability of the supervising physician to the physician assistant, which includes the ability to communicate by telecommunications, and requires the physician to be within reasonable physical proximity. (*See* Fla. Admin. Code R. 64B8-30.001(5) and 64B15-6.001(5).)

<sup>5</sup> Fla. Admin. Code R. 64B8-30.012(2) and 64B15-6.010(2).

<sup>6</sup> Sections 458.347(3) and 459.022(3), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Sections 458.347(4)(e) and (f)1 and 459.022(4)(e), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> *See* s. 395.002(16), F.S. The facilities licensed under ch. 395, F.S., are hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and mobile surgical facilities.

<sup>9</sup> The Board of Nursing is comprised of 13 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate who serve 4-year terms. Seven of the 13 members must be nurses who reside in Florida and have been engaged in the practice of professional nursing for at least 4 years. Of those seven members, one must be an advanced registered nurse practitioner, one a nurse educator at an approved nursing program, and one a nurse executive. Three members of the BON must be licensed practical nurses who reside in the state and have engaged in the practice of practical nursing for at least 4 years. The remaining three members must be Florida residents who have never been licensed as nurses and are in no way connected to the practice of nursing, any health care facility, agency, or insurer. Additionally, one member must be 60 years of age or older. (*See* s. 464.004(2), F.S.)

<sup>10</sup> "Advanced or specialized nursing practice" is defined as the performance of advanced-level nursing acts approved by the Board of Nursing which, by virtue of postbasic specialized education, training and experience, are appropriately performed by an advanced registered nurse practitioner. (*See* s. 464.003(2), F.S.)

<sup>11</sup> Section 464.003(3), F.S. Florida certifies clinical nurse specialists as a category distinct from advanced registered nurse practitioners. (*See* ss. 464.003(7) and 464.0115, F.S.)

certified as an ARNP, a nurse must hold a current license as a registered nurse<sup>12</sup> and submit proof to the Board of Nursing that he or she meets one of the following requirements:<sup>13</sup>

- Satisfactory completion of a formal postbasic educational program of specialized or advanced nursing practice;
- Certification by an appropriate specialty board;<sup>14</sup> or
- Graduation from a master's degree program in a nursing clinical specialty area with preparation in specialized practitioner skills.

Advanced or specialized nursing acts may only be performed under protocol of a supervising physician or dentist.<sup>15</sup> Within the established framework of the protocol, an ARNP may:<sup>16</sup>

- Monitor and alter drug therapies.
- Initiate appropriate therapies for certain conditions.
- Order diagnostic tests and physical and occupational therapy.

The statute further describes additional acts that may be performed within an ARNP's specialty certification (CRNA, CNM, and NP).<sup>17</sup>

Advanced registered nurse practitioners must meet financial responsibility requirements, as determined by rule of the Board of Nursing, and the practitioner profiling requirements.<sup>18</sup> The Board of Nursing requires professional liability coverage of at least \$100,000 per claim with a minimum annual aggregate of at least \$300,000 or an unexpired irrevocable letter of credit in the same amounts payable to the ARNP.<sup>19</sup>

Florida law does not authorize ARNPs to prescribe controlled substances.<sup>20</sup> However, s. 464.012(4)(a), F.S., provides express authority for a CRNA to order certain controlled substances "to the extent authorized by established protocol approved by the medical staff of the facility in which the anesthetic service is performed."

### **Definitions related to the Ordering of Medicinal Drugs**

Chapter 464, F.S., does not contain a definition of the terms "order" or "prescribe." Chapter 465, F.S., relating to pharmacy, defines "prescription" as "any order for drugs or medicinal supplies written or transmitted by any means of communication by a duly licensed practitioner authorized by the laws of the state to prescribe such drugs or medicinal supplies and intended to be

<sup>12</sup> Practice of professional nursing. (See s. 464.003(20), F.S.)

<sup>13</sup> Section 464.012(1), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Specialty boards expressly recognized by the Board of Nursing include: Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists, or Council on Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists; American College of Nurse Midwives; American Nurses Association (American Nurses Credentialing Center); National Certification Corporation for OB/GYN, Neonatal Nursing Specialties; National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates; National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses; American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation; American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certification. (See Fla. Admin. Code R. 64B9-4.002(2)).

<sup>15</sup> Section 464.003(2), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 464.012(3), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 464.012(4), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Sections 456.0391 and 456.041, F.S.

<sup>19</sup> Fla. Admin. Code R. 64B9-4.002(5).

<sup>20</sup> Sections 893.02(21) and 893.05(1), F.S.

dispensed by a pharmacist.<sup>21</sup> “Dispense” is defined as “the transfer of possession of one or more doses of a medicinal drug by a pharmacist to the ultimate consumer or her or his agent.”<sup>22</sup> “Administration” is defined as “the obtaining and giving of a single dose of medicinal drugs by a legally authorized person to a patient for her or his consumption.”<sup>23</sup> Chapter 893, F.S., relating to drug abuse prevention and control, contains similar definitions.<sup>24</sup>

### **ARNP Petition for Declaratory Statement**

On January 22, 2014, a petition for declaratory statement<sup>25</sup> was filed with the Board of Nursing which asked “Can ARNPs legally order narcotics for patients we treat in the institution with written protocols from our attending Doctors [sic]?”<sup>26</sup> The petition noted that prior to January 1, 2014, ARNPs ordered controlled substances for patients. Effective January 1, 2014, the hospital disallowed the practice and required all ARNPs to get an order from a physician. The hospital cited passage of legislation in 2013 which clarified the authority of physician assistants to order controlled substances, but did not address the authority of ARNPs.<sup>27</sup> The Board of Nursing dismissed the petition finding that it failed to comply with the requirements of chapter 120 and that it sought an opinion regarding the scope of practice of a category of licensees based on an employer’s policies.

### **Drug Enforcement Agency Registration**

An individual practitioner<sup>28</sup> who is an agent or employee of another practitioner (other than a mid-level practitioner)<sup>29</sup> registered to dispense controlled substances, may, when acting in the normal course of business or employment, administer or dispense (other than by issuance of a prescription) controlled substances if and to the extent authorized by state law, under the registration of the employer or principal practitioner in lieu of being registered himself or herself.<sup>30</sup>

Health care practitioners who are agents or employees of a hospital or other institution, may, when acting in the usual course of business or employment, administer, dispense, or prescribe controlled substances under the registration of the hospital or other institution in which he or she is employed, in lieu of individual registration, provided that:

- The dispensing, administering, or prescribing is in the usual course of professional practice;

<sup>21</sup> Section 465.003(14), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> Section 465.003(6), F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Section 465.003(1), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> See ss. 893.02(1), 893.02(7), and 893.02(22), F.S.

<sup>25</sup> A declaratory statement is an agency’s opinion regarding the applicability of a statutory provision, rule, or agency order to a petitioner’s set of circumstances. (*See* s. 120.565(1), F.S.)

<sup>26</sup> Petition for Declaratory Statement filed by Carolann Robley ARNP, MSN, BC, FNP (on file with the Senate Committee on Health Policy).

<sup>27</sup> *See* ch. 2013-127, Laws of Fla.

<sup>28</sup> “Practitioner” means a physician, dentist, veterinarian, scientific investigator, pharmacy, hospital, or other person licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted, by the United States of the jurisdiction in which he practices or does research, to distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to, administer, or use in teaching or chemical analysis, a controlled substance in the course of professional practice or research. See 21 U.S.C. s. 802(21) (2011).

<sup>29</sup> Examples of mid-level practitioners include, but are not limited to: nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and physician assistants.

<sup>30</sup> 21 C.F.R. 1301.22.

- The practitioner is authorized to do so by the state in which he or she practices;
- The hospital or other institution has verified that the practitioner is permitted to administer, dispense, or prescribe controlled substances within the state;
- The practitioner acts only within the scope of employment in the hospital or other institution;
- The hospital or other institution authorizes the practitioner to administer, dispense, or prescribe under its registration and assigns a specific internal code number for each practitioner; and
- The hospital or other institution maintains a current list of internal codes and the corresponding practitioner.<sup>31</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 152 expressly authorizes an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) to order any medication, including a controlled substance, for administration to a patient in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or mobile surgical facility within the framework of an established protocol. This authority is comparable to the express authority previously granted by the Legislature to physician assistants (PAs).

The bill also provides express authority in ch. 893, F.S., for a supervisory physician to authorize a PA or ARNP to order controlled substances for administration to a patient in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or mobile surgical facility.

The bill conforms ss. 458.347(4)(g) and 459.022(4)(f), F.S., relating to the authority of a PA to order medications, to changes made elsewhere in the act, but does not alter the authority of supervisory physicians or PAs.

The bill clarifies the distinction between a prescription and an order for administration by amending the definition of “prescription” in ch. 465 and ch. 893, F.S., to exclude an order that is dispensed for administration and making conforming changes in s. 893.04, F.S. The bill also revises the definition of “administer” in ch. 893, F.S., to include the term “administration.”

The bill reenacts various sections of Florida law as required to incorporate amendments made in the act.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

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<sup>31</sup> *Id.*; See also U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, *Practitioner’s Manual*, 27 (2006), available at: [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/manuals/pract/pract\\_manual012508.pdf](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/manuals/pract/pract_manual012508.pdf) (last visited Sept. 17, 2015).

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Physicians who use advanced registered nurse practitioners to serve hospitalized patients, physicians who supervise ARNPs with a hospital practice, and hospitals that employ ARNPs may see increased efficiencies if ARNPs can order controlled substances directly under a supervisory protocol without the need for obtaining a physician's order. These efficiencies include time savings for the practitioners and ARNPs and better utilization of potentially limited space, such as emergency room beds where patients might otherwise wait while a supervising physician is located.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The impact described in Section V. B., above, would also apply to public hospitals and physicians employed in public hospitals.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 458.347, 459.022, 464.012, 465.003, 893.02, 893.04, and 893.05.

This bill reenacts the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 400.462, 401.445, 409.906, 766.103, 409.9201, 458.331, 459.015, 465.014, 465.015, 465.016, 465.022, 465.023, 465.1901, 499.003, 831.30, 112.0455, 381.986, 440.102, 499.0121, 768.36, 810.02, 812.014, 856.015, 944.47, 951.22, 985.711, 1003.57, 1006.09, and 893.0551.

**IX. Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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