

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1120

By: Representative Magie

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
ASSISTANT ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF  
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS ASSISTANTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS  
ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, is amended to add an additional chapter to read as follows:

### CHAPTER 108

### ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT

#### 17-108-101. Title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Anesthesiologist Assistant Act".

#### 17-108-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Anesthesiologist assistant" means a graduate of an approved program who is licensed to perform medical services delegated and directly supervised by a supervising anesthesiologist;

(2) "Approved program" means a program for the education and training of anesthesiologist assistants approved by the Arkansas State Medical Board; and



(3) "Direct supervision" means the on-site, personal supervision by an anesthesiologist who is present in the office when the procedure is being performed in that office, or by an anesthesiologist who is present in the surgical or obstetrical suite when the procedure is being performed in the surgical or obstetrical suite, and who is in all instances immediately available to provide assistance and direction to the anesthesiologist assistant while anesthesia services are being performed.

17-108-103. Powers and duties.

(a) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall:

(1) Examine, license, and renew the licenses of qualified applicants;

(2)(A) Maintain an up-to-date list of every person licensed to practice under this chapter.

(B) The list shall show the licensee's last known place of employment, last known place of residence, and the date and number of the license;

(3) Prosecute persons who violate this chapter and incur necessary expenses of the prosecution;

(4) Keep a record of all proceedings of the board and make the record available to the public for inspection during reasonable business hours;

(5) Conduct hearings regarding discipline of a licensee or denial, revocation, or suspension of a licensee; and

(6)(A) Share information on a case-by-case basis of a person whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied.

(B) The information shall include the following:

(i) The name of the person whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied;

(ii) The Social Security number of the person whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied;

(iii) The type and cause of the action;

(iv) The date of a penalty incurred;

(v) The penalty incurred; and

(vi) The length of the penalty incurred.

(C) The information shall be available for public

inspection during reasonable business hours and shall be supplied to similar boards in other states upon request.

(b) The board may:

(1) Promulgate rules as necessary to enforce the provisions of this chapter consistent with the state law;

(2) Employ personnel as necessary to assist the board in performing its function under this chapter;

(3) Establish license renewal requirements and procedures as deemed appropriate;

(4)(A) Secure the services of resource consultants as deemed necessary by the board.

(B) Resource consultants shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in consultative service to the board;

(5)(A) Enter into agreements or contracts, consistent with state law, with outside organizations for the purpose of developing, administering, grading, or reporting the results of the licensing examinations.

(B) The outside organization shall be capable of providing an examination that meets the standards of the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants or its equivalent; and

(6) Establish license examination fees by rule.

17-108-104. Licensing.

(a) A person applying for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant shall submit an application to the Arkansas State Medical Board on forms approved by the board.

(b)(1) The application shall not be used for more than one (1) year from the date of original submission of the application and fee.

(2) After one (1) year from the date that the original application and fee have been received in the office of the board, a new application and fee shall be required from any applicant who desires licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant.

(c) Application information shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days before the meeting at which the applicant desires the application to be considered.

17-108-105. Application for licensure.

(a)(1) An applicant for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant shall submit an application approved by the Arkansas State Medical Board.

(2)(A) The applicant shall submit two (2) personalized and individualized letters of recommendation from anesthesiologists.

(B)(i) Letters of recommendation shall be composed and signed by the applicant's supervising physician or, for recent graduates, the faculty physician, and give details of the applicant's clinical skills and ability.

(ii) Each letter shall be addressed to the board and shall have been written no more than six (6) months before the filing of the application for licensure.

(b)(1) The applicant shall have obtained a passing score on the examination administered through the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants.

(2) The passing score shall be established by the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants.

(c) The applicant shall be certified in advanced cardiac life support.

17-108-106. Supervisory relationship.

(a) An anesthesiologist or a group of anesthesiologists, upon entering into a supervisory relationship with an anesthesiologist assistant, shall file with the Arkansas State Medical Board a written protocol, including without limitation:

(1) The name, address, and license number of the anesthesiologist assistant;

(2) The name, address, license number, and Drug Enforcement Administration registration number of each anesthesiologist who will supervise the anesthesiologist assistant;

(3) The address of the anesthesiologist assistant's primary practice location and any other locations where the assistant may practice;

(4) The date the protocol was developed and the dates of all revisions;

(5) The designation and signature of the primary supervising anesthesiologist;

(6) The signatures of the anesthesiologist assistant and all

supervising anesthesiologists;

(7) The duties and functions of the anesthesiologist assistant;

(8) The conditions or procedures that require the personal provision of care by an anesthesiologist; and

(9) The procedures to be followed in the event of an anesthetic emergency.

(b) The protocol shall be filed with the board before the time the anesthesiologist assistant begins practice with the anesthesiologist or the anesthesiology group.

(c) The protocol shall be updated biennially.

(d) Anesthesiologist assistants may perform the following duties under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist:

(1) Obtain a comprehensive patient history and present the history to the supervising anesthesiologist;

(2) Pretest and calibration of anesthesia delivery systems and monitor, obtain, and interpret information from the systems and monitors;

(3) Assist the anesthesiologist with implementation of monitoring techniques;

(4) Establish basic and advanced airway interventions, including intubations of the trachea and perform ventilator support;

(5) Administer intermittent vasoactive drugs and start and adjust vasoactive infusions;

(6) Administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory drugs;

(7) Assist the anesthesiologist with the performance of epidural anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic procedures;

(8) Administer blood, blood products, and supportive fluids;

(9) Support life functions during anesthesia health care, including induction and intubation procedures, the use of appropriate mechanical supportive devices, and the management of fluid, electrolyte, and blood component balances;

(10) Recognize and take appropriate corrective action for abnormal patient responses to anesthesia, adjunctive medication, or other forms of therapy;

(11) Participate in management of the patient while in the post-anesthesia recovery area, including the administration of supporting fluids;

and

(12) Place special peripheral and central venous and arterial lines for blood sampling and monitoring as appropriate.

(e)(1) The supervising anesthesiologist shall delegate only tasks and procedures to the anesthesiologist assistant that are within the supervising anesthesiologist's scope of practice.

(2) The anesthesiologist assistant may work in any setting that is within the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist's practice.

(f) Continuity of supervision in practice settings requires the anesthesiologist assistant to document in the anesthesia record any change in supervisor.

(g) The tasks and procedures performed by the anesthesiologist assistant shall be documented in the appropriate medical record.

17-108-107. Licensure without examination.

(a) A person who was engaged in anesthesiology work for at least one (1) year before the effective date of this chapter is entitled to receive a license without examination.

(b) A person seeking licensure under this section shall register with the Arkansas State Medical Board before December 31, 2016, and shall pay the license fee.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act shall become effective on and after January 1, 2016.