



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2359

physician assistants; continuing medical education

Purpose

Permits physician assistants to use credit obtained from certification programs to fulfill the continuing medical education (CME) requirement for license renewal.

Background

The Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants (Board) is comprised of the following Governor-appointed members: 1) five licensed physician assistants; 2) two public members; and 3) two physicians, one of whom supervises a physician assistant at the time of appointment. The primary duty of the Board is to protect the public from unlawful, incompetent, unqualified, impaired or unprofessional physician assistants. To this end, the Board is required to license and regulate physician assistants and develop and recommend standards governing the profession, among other things.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2523, a physician assistant with a regular license is required to renew the license every other year on or before the licensee's birthday by paying the prescribed renewal fee and supplying the Board with information it deems necessary. This information includes proof of having completed, before the renewal date, 40 hours of category 1 CME approved by the American Academy of Physicians Assistants, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association or any other accrediting organization acceptable to the Board.

Category 1 Credit is commonly recognized as one of the metrics for verifying a physician assistant's participation in CME. There are several ways to obtain Category I Credit, as described by the American Medical Association, including, but not limited to: attendance of live events, completion of CME activities, journal-based learning, test item writing, Performance Improvement learning and Internet Point of Care learning. The American Academy of Physicians Assistants currently recognizes several Certificate Programs as preapproved for a maximum allowable amount of Category 1 Credit. Credit can only be obtained for the same certification program once every year and two times per logging cycle.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Permits a licensee who holds a certification from a Board-approved certifying body to use the CME credits obtained for certification to satisfy CME requirements for license renewal.

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2. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

House Action

Health	2/02/16	DP	5-0-0-1
3 rd Read	2/18/16		57-0-3-0

Prepared by Senate Research

February 29, 2016

EM/PB/ljs