

House Engrossed

physician assistants; qualifications

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

HOUSE BILL 2134

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 32-2504 AND 32-2521, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING
TO THE ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 32-2504, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 32-2504. Powers and duties; delegation of authority; rules;
5 subcommittees; immunity

6 A. The board shall:

7 1. As its primary duty, protect the public from unlawful,
8 incompetent, unqualified, impaired or unprofessional physician assistants.

9 2. License **ONLY THOSE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT APPLICANTS WHO MEET ALL**
10 **OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CHAPTER** and regulate physician assistants
11 pursuant to this chapter.

12 3. Order and evaluate physical, psychological, psychiatric and
13 competency testing of licensees and applicants **AS** the board determines is
14 necessary to enforce this chapter.

15 4. Review the credentials and the abilities of applicants for
16 licensure **WHO MEET ALL OTHER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CHAPTER BUT**
17 whose professional records or physical or mental capabilities may not meet
18 the requirements of this chapter.

19 5. Initiate investigations and determine on its own motion whether
20 a licensee has engaged in unprofessional conduct or is or may be
21 incompetent or mentally or physically unable to safely perform health care
22 tasks.

23 6. Establish fees and penalties pursuant to section 32-2526.

24 7. Develop and recommend standards governing the profession.

25 8. Engage in the full exchange of information with the **PHYSICIAN**
26 **ASSISTANT** licensing and disciplinary boards and professional associations
27 of other states and jurisdictions of the United States and foreign
28 countries and a statewide association for physician assistants.

29 9. Direct the preparation and circulation of educational material
30 the board determines is helpful and proper for its licensees.

31 10. Discipline and rehabilitate physician assistants pursuant to
32 this chapter.

33 11. Certify physician assistants for thirty-day prescription
34 privileges for schedule II, schedule III, schedule IV and schedule V
35 controlled substances that are opioids or benzodiazepine and ninety-day
36 prescription privileges for schedule II, schedule III, schedule IV and
37 schedule V controlled substances that are not opioids or benzodiazepine if
38 the physician assistant either:

39 (a) Within the preceding three years of application, completed
40 forty-five hours in pharmacology or clinical management of drug therapy or
41 at the time of application is certified by a national commission on the
42 certification of physician assistants or its successor.

43 (b) Met any other requirement established by board rule.

44 B. The board may delegate to the executive director the board's
45 authority pursuant to this section or section 32-2551. The board shall

1 adopt a substantive policy statement pursuant to section 41-1091 for each
2 specific licensing and regulatory authority the board delegates to the
3 executive director.

4 C. The board may make and adopt rules necessary or proper for the
5 administration of this chapter.

6 D. The chairperson may establish subcommittees consisting of board
7 members and define their duties as the chairperson deems necessary to
8 carry out the functions of the board.

9 E. Board employees, including the executive director, temporary
10 personnel and professional medical investigators, are immune from civil
11 liability for good faith actions they take to enforce this chapter.

12 F. In performing its duties pursuant to subsection A of this
13 section, the board may receive and review staff reports on complaints,
14 malpractice cases and all investigations.

15 G. The chairperson and vice chairperson of the ~~Arizona regulatory~~
16 ~~board of physician assistants~~ are members of the committee on executive
17 director selection and retention established by section 32-1403,
18 subsection G, which is responsible for the appointment of the executive
19 director pursuant to section 32-1405.

20 Sec. 2. Section 32-2521, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
21 read:

22 32-2521. Qualifications; investigations; disciplinary actions

23 A. An applicant for licensure shall:

24 1. Have graduated from a physician assistants educational program
25 ACCREDITED BY A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITATION ORGANIZATION OF
26 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION AND approved by the board.

27 2. Pass a NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED certifying examination FOR
28 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS approved by the board.

29 3. Be physically and mentally able to safely perform health care
30 tasks as a physician assistant.

31 4. Have a professional record that indicates that the applicant has
32 not committed any act or engaged in any conduct that constitutes grounds
33 for disciplinary action against a licensee pursuant to this chapter. This
34 paragraph does not prevent the board from considering the application of
35 an applicant who was the subject of disciplinary action in another
36 jurisdiction if the applicant's act or conduct was subsequently corrected,
37 monitored and resolved to the satisfaction of that jurisdiction's
38 regulatory board.

39 5. Not have had a license to practice revoked by a regulatory board
40 in another jurisdiction in the United States for an act that occurred in
41 that jurisdiction that constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to this
42 chapter.

43 6. Not be currently under investigation, suspension or restriction
44 by a regulatory board in another jurisdiction in the United States for an
45 act that occurred in that jurisdiction AND that constitutes unprofessional

1 conduct pursuant to this chapter. If the applicant is under investigation
2 by a regulatory board in another jurisdiction, the board shall suspend the
3 application process and may not issue or deny a license to the applicant
4 until the investigation is resolved.

5 7. Not have surrendered, relinquished or given up a license in lieu
6 of disciplinary action by a regulatory board in another jurisdiction in
7 the United States for an act that occurred in that jurisdiction **AND** that
8 constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to this chapter. This
9 paragraph does not prevent the board from considering the application of
10 an applicant who surrendered, relinquished or gave up a license in lieu of
11 disciplinary action by a regulatory board in another jurisdiction if that
12 regulatory board subsequently reinstated the applicant's license.

13 8. Have submitted verification of all hospital affiliations and
14 employment for the five years preceding application. Each hospital must
15 verify the applicant's affiliation or employment on the hospital's
16 official letterhead or the electronic equivalent.

17 B. The board shall require an applicant to have all credentials
18 submitted from the primary source where the document originated, either
19 electronically or by hard copy, except that the board may accept
20 primary-source verified credentials from a credentials verification
21 service approved by the board.

22 C. The board may make investigations it deems necessary to advise
23 itself with respect to the qualifications of the applicant, including
24 physical examinations, mental evaluations, written competency examinations
25 or any combination of these examinations and evaluations.

26 D. If the board finds that the applicant committed an act or
27 engaged in conduct that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action
28 in this state, before issuing a license the board must determine to its
29 satisfaction that the act or conduct has been corrected, monitored and
30 resolved. If the act or conduct has not been resolved, before issuing a
31 license the board must determine to its satisfaction that mitigating
32 circumstances exist that prevent ~~its~~ resolution **OF THE ACT OR CONDUCT**.

33 E. If another jurisdiction has taken disciplinary action against an
34 applicant, before issuing a license the board must determine to its
35 satisfaction that the cause for the action was corrected and the matter
36 was resolved. If the other jurisdiction has not resolved the matter,
37 before issuing a license the board must determine to its satisfaction that
38 mitigating circumstances exist that prevent ~~its~~ **THE MATTER'S** resolution.

39 F. The board may delegate to the executive director the authority
40 to deny licenses to applicants who do not meet the requirements of this
41 section.