

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1915
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Bill Analysis

SB 1915 amends various terms in the Physician Assistant Act. Practice of medicine is amended to provide for physician delegation instead of supervision and authorizes physician assistants to provide health care services, provided a practice agreement with delegating physician or physicians is in place; the measure allows a physician assistant to practice agreements with multiple physicians. The agreement shall involve the joint formulation, discussion and agreement on the methods of supervision and collaboration for diagnosis, consultation and treatment of medical conditions. All practice agreements and any amendments shall be filed with the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision within 10 business days of being executed. The measure also requires the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision to collect and publish information outlined in the measure.

The measure specifies that such a delegation shall include an agreement between a medical doctor or osteopathic physician performing the procedure or directly involved with the treatment of a patient and the physician assistant working jointly toward a common goal of providing services for the same patient. Patient care settings may also include hospice care. The measure directs a physician assistant to collaborate with an appropriate member of the healthcare team based on certain conditions. The measure removes the current joint temporary licensure for a physician assistant and allows the physician assistant to apply without a physician, and the measure eliminates the application fee. The measure designates physician assistants as primary care providers. Payment for such services by a health insurance plan shall be made when ordered or performed by the physician assistant if the same service would have been provided by a physician. The measure requires payments to be made based on service, not the qualifications of the health professional. Licensed physician assistants are also authorized to render care when responding to a need for medical care created by an emergency or a state or local disaster, and are provided with immunity to civil liability when responding to such emergencies under certain conditions.

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