

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB746 ER

Patron: Henson

Bill Title: Physician assistants; authorization to practice without a practice agreement.

Bill Summary: Authorizes a physician assistant with at least three years of full-time clinical experience to practice within the specific clinical specialty or practice area of that experience without a practice agreement upon receipt of an attestation from a patient care team physician or patient care team podiatrist who provided collaboration and consultation to such physician assistant on a patient care team that verifies the length and nature of the physician assistant’s practice. The bill directs a copy of such attestation to be submitted to the Board of Medicine along with a fee established by the Board and directs the Board to issue a new license to the physician assistant upon receipt of the attestation indicating that the physician assistant is authorized to practice without a practice agreement.

The bill establishes methods for a physician assistant who is unable to obtain the required attestation to submit other evidence demonstrating fulfillment of the requirements to practice without a practice agreement pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board, and also establishes a method for physician assistants who obtain licensure by endorsement to practice without a practice agreement if they meet certain requirements. The bill further establishes a scope of practice for physician assistants who practice without a practice agreement and outlines responsibilities for physician assistants authorized to practice without a practice agreement as it relates to the prescription of controlled substances and devices, as well as such physician assistant’s roles and abilities on a patient care team.

The bill directs the Board of Medicine to adopt accompanying regulations and exempts the initial adoption of such regulations from the provisions of the Administrative Process Act. Such regulations must be first be adopted by the Board in order for the provisions of the bill to take effect, and the Board must certify the date of such adoption in writing to the Virginia Code Commission.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: n/a

Fiscal Summary: Minimal/absorbable fiscal impact.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill allows a physician assistant with the requisite clinical experience in a specific clinical specialty or practice area to practice without a practice agreement in that specific clinical specialty or practice area following the provision of an attestation through one of the methods outlined in the bill. The Board of Medicine is required to issue a new license with a designation indicating that the physician assistant is eligible to practice without a practice agreement following the receipt of such attestation and a fee pursuant to the bill. The bill also outlines responsibilities for physician assistants authorized to practice without a practice agreement as it relates to the prescription of controlled substances or devices, as well as such physician assistant’s abilities on a patient care team.

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The Board of Medicine does not have an estimate for the number of physician assistants who may apply for authorization to practice without a practice agreement pursuant to this legislation. The Board of Medicine will need to devote additional staff time and attention to validating signed attestations or related documentation and will also need to award a new license type to qualified individuals seeking such authorization. It is expected that any cost or workload impacts associated with these responsibilities can be absorbed by existing staff and can further be supported by any new fee revenue generated pursuant to the bill. It is further expected that any cost or workload impacts associated with the adoption of regulations to reflect the provisions of the bill and any certification thereof will be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Other: n/a