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AN ACT

RELATING TO ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS; REVISING PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS THAT AN ANESTHESIOLOGIST MAY SUPERVISE; REQUIRING IN-PERSON SUPERVISION; REPEALING LAWS 2015, CHAPTER 52, SECTION 5.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. That version of Section 61-6D-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2015, Chapter 52, Section 4, as amended) that is to become effective July 1, 2025 is amended to read:

"61-6D-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act:

A. "anesthesiologist" means a physician licensed to practice medicine in New Mexico who has successfully completed an accredited anesthesiology graduate medical education program, who is board certified by the American board of anesthesiology, the American osteopathic board of anesthesiology or is board eligible, who has completed a residency in anesthesiology within the last three years or who has foreign certification determined by the board to be the substantial equivalent and who is an employee of the department of anesthesiology of a medical school in New Mexico;

B. "anesthesiologist assistant" means a skilled

1 person licensed by the board as being qualified by academic  
2 and practical training to assist an anesthesiologist in  
3 developing and implementing anesthesia care plans for  
4 patients under the supervision and direction of the  
5 anesthesiologist who is responsible for the performance of  
6 that anesthesiologist assistant;

7 C. "applicant" means a person who is applying to  
8 the board for a license as an anesthesiologist assistant;

9 D. "board" means the New Mexico medical board; and

10 E. "license" means an authorization to practice as  
11 an anesthesiologist assistant."

12 SECTION 2. Section 61-6D-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001,  
13 Chapter 311, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

14 "61-6D-8. RULES.--

15 A. The board may adopt in accordance with the  
16 State Rules Act and enforce in accordance with the Uniform  
17 Licensing Act reasonable rules:

18 (1) for setting qualifications of education,  
19 skill and experience for licensure of a person as an  
20 anesthesiologist assistant;

21 (2) for providing procedures and forms for  
22 licensure and annual registration;

23 (3) for examining and evaluating applicants  
24 for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant regarding the  
25 required skill, knowledge and experience in developing and

1 implementing anesthesia care plans under supervision;

2 (4) for allowing a supervising  
3 anesthesiologist to temporarily delegate supervisory  
4 responsibilities for an anesthesiologist assistant to another  
5 anesthesiologist;

6 (5) for allowing an anesthesiologist  
7 assistant to temporarily serve under the supervision of an  
8 anesthesiologist other than the supervising anesthesiologist  
9 with whom the anesthesiologist assistant is registered; and

10 (6) to carry out the provisions of the  
11 Anesthesiologist Assistants Act.

12 B. The board shall not adopt a rule allowing an  
13 anesthesiologist assistant to perform procedures outside the  
14 anesthesiologist assistant's scope of practice.

15 C. The board shall adopt rules:

16 (1) establishing requirements for  
17 anesthesiologist assistant licensing, including:

18 (a) completion of a graduate level  
19 training program accredited by the commission on  
20 accreditation of allied health education programs;

21 (b) successful completion of a  
22 certifying examination for anesthesiologist assistants  
23 administered by the national commission for the certification  
24 of anesthesiologist assistants; and

25 (c) current certification by the

1 American heart association in advanced cardiac life-support  
2 techniques;

3 (2) establishing minimum requirements for  
4 continuing education of not less than forty hours every two  
5 years;

6 (3) requiring adequate identification of the  
7 anesthesiologist assistant to patients and others;

8 (4) requiring the presence, except in cases  
9 of emergency, and the documentation of the presence, of the  
10 supervising anesthesiologist in the operating room during  
11 induction of a general anesthetic and during emergence from a  
12 general anesthetic, the presence of the supervising  
13 anesthesiologist within the operating suite and immediate  
14 availability to the operating room at other times when the  
15 anesthetic procedure is being performed and requiring that  
16 the anesthesiologist assistant comply with the above  
17 restrictions;

18 (5) requiring the supervising  
19 anesthesiologist to ensure that all activities, functions,  
20 services and treatment measures are properly documented in  
21 written form by the anesthesiologist assistant. The  
22 anesthesia record shall be reviewed, countersigned and dated  
23 by the supervising anesthesiologist;

24 (6) requiring the anesthesiologist assistant  
25 to inform the supervising anesthesiologist of serious adverse

1 events;

2 (7) establishing that the number of  
3 anesthesiologist assistants a supervising anesthesiologist  
4 may supervise at one time, except in emergency cases, shall  
5 not exceed four anesthesiologist assistants; and

6 (8) within twelve months of the date on  
7 which the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act becomes effective,  
8 providing for enhanced supervision at the commencement of an  
9 anesthesiologist assistant's practice."

10 SECTION 3. Section 61-6D-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2015,  
11 Chapter 52, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

12 "61-6D-10. ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS--EMPLOYMENT  
13 CONDITIONS.--An anesthesiologist assistant shall:

14 A. be a current or future employee of a university  
15 in New Mexico with a medical school; or

16 B. in a practice other than one at a university in  
17 New Mexico with a medical school:

18 (1) be certified as an anesthesiologist  
19 assistant by the national commission for certification of  
20 anesthesiologist assistants;

21 (2) practice only in a health facility  
22 licensed by the department of health where anesthesiologists  
23 who are licensed physicians and who are board-certified as  
24 anesthesiologists by the American board of anesthesiology are  
25 on staff as employees or contractors;

1 (3) practice only in a class A county; and  
2 (4) be supervised by a licensed  
3 anesthesiologist who is physically present at all times in  
4 the health facility while supervising an anesthesiologist  
5 assistant."

6 SECTION 4. REPEAL.--Laws 2015, Chapter 52, Section 5 is  
7 repealed. \_\_\_\_\_

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