

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY KERTTULA

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 34

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to physician assistants."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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* Section 1. PURPOSE. In order to meet the critical shortage of
9 professionally trained medical personnel in the state this Act has as its
10 purpose the extension of medical care by establishing a category of qualified
11 medical personnel that may assist practicing physicians in urban areas and
12 bring physician services to remote regions which are not presently being
13 served adequately by licensed physicians in the state.

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* Sec. 2. AS 08.64 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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ARTICLE 6. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

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Sec. 08.64.390. CREATION OF CATEGORY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.

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There is created the category of physician assistant to provide
18 qualified personnel who will extend primary health care in the state.

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Sec. 08.64.400. SCOPE OF SERVICES. (a) Within the scope of
20 secs. 390 - 490 of this chapter, a physician assistant may perform
21 medical services under the supervision of a physician approved to
22 supervise the assistant by the board.

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(b) A trainee may perform medical services within the scope of a
24 program established or approved by the board under secs. 390 - 490 of
25 this chapter.

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(c) For the purposes of secs. 390 - 490 of this chapter, super-
27 vision requires direct communication, when necessary, by a physician
28 assistant with the licensed physician approved for his supervision,
29 either by telephone, or any other immediate method, and the work of the

1 physician assistant shall be regularly reviewed by the physician
2 approved for supervision.

3 Sec. 08.64.410. ESTABLISHMENT AND APPROVAL OF TRAINING PROGRAMS
4 FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS. (a) The board shall establish a program
5 for the education and training of physician assistants and issue
6 certificates of approval for other programs either inside or outside
7 the state for the education and training of physician assistants which
8 meet standards established by the board.

9 (b) The board shall adopt and publish standards to insure that a
10 program for the education and training of a physician assistant operates
11 in a manner which does not endanger the health and welfare of patients
12 who receive services within the scope of the program. In developing
13 standards for program approval the board shall give consideration to,
14 and encourage, the utilization of equivalency and proficiency testing
15 and other mechanisms by which full credit is given to trainees for past
16 education and experience in health fields.

17 (c) If the board determines that a person has sufficient previous
18 experience to meet the standards established by it under this section,
19 it may approve a physician assistant without requiring the completion
20 of a formal program for the education and training of physician
21 assistants.

22 Sec. 08.64.420. APPLICATIONS BY LICENSED PHYSICIAN FOR SUPER-
23 VISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS. (a) The board shall formulate guide-
24 lines for the consideration of applications by a licensed physician to
25 supervise a physician assistant. An application submitted by a
26 physician to the board shall include the following:

27 (1) the qualifications, including related experience,
28 possessed by the proposed physician assistant;

29 (2) the professional background and specialty of the

1 physician;

2 (3) a description by the physician of his practice, and the
3 way in which the assistant or assistants are to be utilized.

4 (b) No physician may supervise more than two physician assistants
5 at any one time, unless the remoteness of an area creates a need, as
6 determined by the board, for a greater number of physician assistants
7 to be supervised by a single physician.

8 (c) The board shall approve an application by a licensed physician
9 to supervise a physician assistant if the board finds that the proposed
10 assistant is a graduate of an approved program, or is fully qualified
11 by reason of experience to perform medical services under the super-
12 vision of a licensed physician.

13 Sec. 08.64.430. HOLDING OUT AS PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT. A person
14 other than one who has been approved by the board who holds himself out
15 as a "physician assistant," or who uses any other term indicating or
16 implying that he is a physician assistant, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

17 Sec. 08.64.440. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAMS

18 (a) There is established the Advisory Committee on Physician Assistant
19 Programs which shall be advisory to the board on matters relating to
20 the education of physician assistants and approval of applicants to
21 supervise a physician assistant. The committee shall consist of eight
22 members appointed by the governor for four year terms.

23 (b) The members of the committee shall include one representative
24 of the board, who shall be chairman of the committee, an educator with
25 experience in the development of health manpower programming and three
26 physicians who are members of the Bush Medicine Committee for the
27 Alaska State Medical Association.

28 (c) Each member of the committee shall receive the same travel
29 pay and per diem authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

1 Sec. 08.64.450. BOARD REPORT. The board shall report to the
2 governor and the legislature not later than January 31, 1972 concerning
3 the following:

4 (1) the number and types of programs which have been
5 established and approved and a description of each of them;

6 (2) the number of physician assistants who have been approved
7 for supervision under secs. 390 - 490 of this chapter;

8 (3) the education and qualifications of each physician
9 assistant;

10 (4) background concerning the number of physicians super-
11 vising assistants, their specialties, and the areas of the state in
12 which they practice;

13 (5) the scope of practice of approved physician assistants;

14 (6) recommendations for establishing a permanent program of
15 certification or licensure for physician assistants.

16 Sec. 08.64.460. ASSISTANCE TO BOARD. In developing a program for
17 the education and training of physician assistants and standards for
18 program approval and approval of applications to utilize physician
19 assistants and in preparing its report to the governor and the legisla-
20 ture, the board shall consult with and seek the advice of professional
21 medical organizations and specialty societies.

22 Sec. 08.64.470. FEES. (a) A fee of \$10 shall be charged for an
23 application to the board by a physician to supervise a physician
24 assistant.

25 (b) A fee of \$50 shall be charged for each approval granted by
26 the board. Approval shall be limited to one year.

27 (c) The board shall renew approval upon application for a renewal,
28 and a fee of \$25 shall be paid for the renewal.

29 (d) A fee of \$50 shall be charged to an applicant seeking program

1 approval by the board.

2 Sec. 08.64.480. REGULATIONS. The board may promulgate regulations
3 necessary to carry out the purposes of secs. 390 - 490 of this chapter.

4 Sec. 08.64.490. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 390 - 490 of this chapter

5 (1) "approved program" means a program for the education of
6 physician assistants which has been formally approved by the board;

7 (2) "board" means the State Medical Board;

8 (3) "physician assistant" means a person who is approved by
9 the board to perform medical services under the supervision of a
10 physician approved by the board to supervise the assistant;

11 (4) "trainee" means a person who is currently enrolled in
12 an approved program.

13 * Sec. 3. AS 08.64.370 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

14 (6) physician assistants under secs. 390 - 490 of this
15 chapter.

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