

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 890

Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas

February 26, 2015

An act to add Chapter 7.75 (commencing with Section 3550) to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 890, as amended, Ridley-Thomas. Anesthesiologist assistants.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of specified healing arts licensees, including, among others, physicians and surgeons, physician assistants, nurses, and nurse anesthetists.

This bill would enact the Anesthesiologist Assistant Practice Act, which would make it unlawful for any person to hold himself or herself out as an anesthesiologist assistant unless he or she meets specified requirements. The bill would make it an unfair business practice to violate these provisions. The bill would require an anesthesiologist assistant to work under the ~~direction and~~ supervision of an anesthesiologist, and would require the anesthesiologist to be physically present on the premises and *immediately available if needed* to the anesthesiologist assistant when medical services are being rendered and to oversee the activities of, and accept responsibility for, the medical services being rendered by the anesthesiologist assistant. The bill would authorize an anesthesiologist assistant *under the supervision of an anesthesiologist* to ~~assist the supervising anesthesiologist in deliver~~

medical services, including, but not limited to, developing and implementing an anesthesia care plan for a patient.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 7.75 (commencing with Section 3550) is added to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 7.75. ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT

3550. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Anesthesiologist Assistant Practice Act.

3551. For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Anesthesiologist" means a physician and surgeon who has completed a residency in anesthesiology approved by the American Board of Anesthesiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology successfully completed a training program in anesthesiology accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association or equivalent organizations and is licensed under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000).

(b) "Anesthesiologist assistant" means a person who meets the requirements of Section 3552.

3552. (a) A person shall not hold himself or herself out to be an anesthesiologist assistant unless he or she meets the following requirements:

(1) Has graduated from an anesthesiologist assistant program recognized by the American Medical Association's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or by its successor agency.

(2) ~~Has passed the certifying examination and holds~~ Holds an active certification by the National Commission on Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants.

(b) It is an unfair business practice within the meaning of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 17200) of Part 2 of Division

1 7 for any person to use the title “anesthesiologist assistant” or any
2 other term, including, but not limited to, “certified,” “licensed,”
3 “registered,” or “AA,” that implies or suggests that the person is
4 certified as an anesthesiologist assistant, if the person does not
5 meet the requirements of subdivision (a).

6 3553. An anesthesiologist assistant shall work under the
7 ~~direction and~~ supervision of an anesthesiologist. The supervising
8 anesthesiologist shall do both of the following:

9 (a) Be physically present on the premises and *immediately*
10 available *if needed* to the anesthesiologist assistant when medical
11 services are being rendered.

12 (b) Oversee the activities of, and accept responsibility for, the
13 medical services being rendered by the anesthesiologist assistant.

14 3554. Notwithstanding any other law, an anesthesiologist
15 assistant *under the supervision of an anesthesiologist* may ~~assist~~
16 ~~the supervising anesthesiologist in~~ *deliver medical services,*
17 *including, but not limited to,* developing and implementing an
18 anesthesia care plan for a patient.