

# Senate Bill 678

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (at the request of Oregon Society of Physician Assistants)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes supervising physician of physician assistant to designate another physician as agent to temporarily supervise physician assistant.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to supervision of physician assistants; amending ORS 677.495 and 677.510.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 677.495 is amended to read:

5 677.495. As used in ORS 677.495 to 677.545, unless the context requires otherwise:

6 (1) **"Agent" means a physician designated by the supervising physician of a physician**  
7 **assistant to supervise the medical services provided by the physician assistant.**

8 [(1)] (2) "Committee" means the Physician Assistant Committee created in ORS 677.540.

9 [(2)] (3) "Physician assistant" means a person who is licensed in accordance with ORS 677.505  
10 to 677.525.

11 [(3)] (4) "Supervision" means the routine direction and regular review by the supervising phy-  
12 sician, as determined to be appropriate by the Board of Medical Examiners for the State of Oregon,  
13 of the medical services provided by the physician assistant. The practice description shall provide  
14 for the maintenance of direct, verbal communication either in person or by means described in ORS  
15 677.515 (4)(a) but the description shall not require the physical presence at all times of the super-  
16 vising physician.

17 **SECTION 2.** ORS 677.510 is amended to read:

18 677.510. (1) A person licensed to practice medicine under this chapter shall not use the services  
19 of a physician assistant without the prior approval of the Board of Medical Examiners. The appli-  
20 cation shall state the name of the physician assistant, describe the manner and extent to which the  
21 physician assistant's services would be used and supervised, state the education, training and expe-  
22 rience of the physician assistant and provide such other information in such a form as the board  
23 may require.

24 (2) The board may approve or reject an application, or it may modify the proposed use of the  
25 services of the physician assistant and approve the application as modified. When it appears to the  
26 board that the services of a physician assistant are being used in a manner inconsistent with the  
27 approval granted, the board may withdraw its approval. If a hearing is requested by the physician  
28 or the physician assistant upon the rejection of an application, or upon the withdrawal of an ap-  
29 proval, a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with ORS 677.200.

30 (3)(a) The supervising physician may have a different specialty from the physician assistant. A  
31 physician assistant may be supervised by no more than four physicians. A physician may supervise

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 four physician assistants. **A supervising physician may designate a physician to serve as the**  
2 **agent of the supervising physician for a predetermined period of time.**

3 (b) The board may review and approve applications from physicians serving federally designated  
4 underserved populations, or physicians in federally designated health professional shortage areas,  
5 federally designated medically underserved areas or areas designated as medically disadvantaged  
6 and in need of primary health care providers by the Director of Human Services or the Office of  
7 Rural Health to supervise more than four physician assistants, and applications from physician as-  
8 sistants to be supervised by more than four physicians. A physician assistant may render services  
9 in an emergency room and other hospital settings, a nursing home, a corrections institution and any  
10 site included in the practice description.

11 (4) A licensed physician assistant may make application to the board for emergency drug dis-  
12 pensing authority. The board shall consider the criteria adopted by the Physician Assistant Com-  
13 mittee under ORS 677.545 (4) in reviewing the application. Such emergency dispensing shall be of  
14 drugs prepared or prepackaged by a licensed pharmacist, manufacturing drug outlet or wholesale  
15 drug outlet authorized to do so under ORS chapter 689.

16 (5) A physician assistant for whom an application under subsection (1) of this section has been  
17 approved by the board on or after January 2, 2006, shall submit to the board, within 24 months after  
18 the approval, documentation of completion of:

19 (a) A pain management education program approved by the board and developed in conjunction  
20 with the Pain Management Commission established under ORS 409.500; or

21 (b) An equivalent pain management education program, as determined by the board.

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