



Bob Hackett

State Senator
10th District

Committees

Agriculture - Chair
Finance – Health and Medicaid Subcommittee - Chair
Insurance Financial Institutions – Vice Chair
Health, Human Services and Medicaid
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
Ways and Means

Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-3780

Senate Bill 259
House Health Committee
Chairman Huffman
Sponsor Testimony – Senator Bob Hackett
November 14, 2018

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on SB 259. This bill is an update to the Physician Assistant profession in Ohio and makes the path easier for PAs to practice at the top of their training and experience.

For those of you unfamiliar, the Physician Assistant profession has been consistently rated as one of the best professions in America for many years. They work together with other healthcare professionals to provide integrated, team-based healthcare to patients. There are currently over 3,000 PAs licensed in the state of Ohio.

The General Assembly passed a bill in 2015 that many called the PA modernization act. That law (SB 110) brought Ohio into line with many other states for PA practice and administrative oversight. Senate Bill 259 will continue the good work done by Senator Burke and others and allow PAs to practice more seamlessly with their supervising physicians.

Specifically, SB 259 makes changes to Ohio Revised Code Section 4730, including:

- Creating an exclusionary formulary for PAs – allowing them to prescribe and practice in conjunction with their supervising physician.
- Modification of the current requirement for out of state PA's coming to Ohio – changing the requirement that they must actively practice three years to two consecutive years and or subject to certain requirements set forth by the Medical Board.
- Elimination of language prohibiting the state medical board from issuing a prescriber number to an applicant who was issued a license to practice as a physician assistant but does not hold a master's or high degree and did not previously have prescriptive authority while practicing as a physician assistant in another jurisdiction, in the military, or in the public health service (a technical correction from SB 110 of last GA).

- Increasing the number of physician assistants a physician may supervise at any one time from three to five.
- In addition, the Medical Board added language to have supervision agreements retained on site at the supervising physician's offices, removing the need to file with the OSMB – a change supported by the PAs.

PAs are a critical part of quality health care delivery in Ohio. They have been a valued part of our healthcare systems and PAs should be supported and promoted as need for their services increases. This bill will help do that.

Once again, Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the House Health Committee thank you for the opportunity to bring S.B. 259 before you. I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.