



Bob Hackett

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Senate Bill 259
Senate Health and Medicaid Committee
Chairman Burke
Sponsor Testimony – Senator Bob Hackett
March 13, 2018

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Senate Health and Medicaid 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. My bill 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 within the scope of their supervising physician.
- Elimination of the current requirement that PAs actively practice for three consecutive years in another jurisdiction to receive a license to practice in Ohio. The PA will be required to be in good standing within his/her current jurisdiction.
- 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).

- Allowing a physician assistant to perform rapid intubation and procedural sedation, order rapid intubation and procedural sedation, and order drugs needed to perform rapid intubation and procedural sedation in a health care facility and with the approval of their supervising physician.
- Increasing the number of physician assistants a physician may supervise at any one time from three to five.
- In addition, we understand the Medical Board will be pursuing an amendment 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 and I would appreciate your support for its eventual passage.

Once again, Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Senate Health and Medicaid 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.