

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1263

4  
5 By: Representative Pilkington

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
9 ASSISTANT ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF  
10 ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

14 TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS  
15 ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT ACT; AND TO  
16 PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
17 ASSISTANTS.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 95, is amended to add an  
23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

### Subchapter 11 – Arkansas Anesthesiologist Assistant Act

#### 17-95-1101. Title.

28 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Arkansas  
29 Anesthesiologist Assistant Act”.

#### 17-95-1102. Definitions.

32 As used in this chapter:

33 (1) “Anesthesiologist assistant” means a graduate of an approved  
34 program who is licensed to perform medical services delegated and directly  
35 supervised by a supervising anesthesiologist;

36 (2) “Approved program” means a program for the education and



1 training of anesthesiologist assistants approved by the Arkansas State  
 2 Medical Board; and

3 (3) "Direct supervision" means the on-site, personal supervision  
 4 by an anesthesiologist who is:

5 (A) Present in the office or surgical or obstetrical suite  
 6 when a procedure is being performed in the office or surgical or obstetrical  
 7 suite; and

8 (B) In all instances immediately available to provide  
 9 assistance and direction to the anesthesiologist assistant while anesthesia  
 10 services are being performed.

11  
 12 17-95-1103. Powers and duties.

13 (a) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall:

14 (1) License and renew the licenses of qualified applicants;

15 (2)(A) Maintain an up-to-date list of every person licensed to  
 16 practice under this subchapter.

17 (B) The list shall show the licensee's last known place of  
 18 employment, last known place of residence, and the date and number of the  
 19 license;

20 (3) Prosecute persons who violate this subchapter and incur  
 21 necessary expenses of the prosecution;

22 (4) Keep a record of all proceedings of the board and make the  
 23 record available to the public for inspection during reasonable business  
 24 hours;

25 (5) Conduct hearings regarding discipline of a licensee or  
 26 denial, revocation, or suspension of a license; and

27 (6)(A) Share information on a case-by-case basis of a person  
 28 whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied.

29 (B) The information under subdivision (a)(6)(A) of this  
 30 section shall include the following:

31 (i) The name of the person whose license has been  
 32 suspended, revoked, or denied;

33 (ii) The type and cause of the action;

34 (iii) The date upon which a penalty is imposed;

35 (iv) The type of penalty imposed; and

36 (v) The duration of the penalty imposed.

1           (C) The information under subdivision (a)(6)(A) of this  
2 section shall be available for public inspection during reasonable business  
3 hours and shall be supplied to licensing entities in other states upon  
4 request.

5           (b) The board may:

6           (1) Promulgate rules as necessary to enforce the provisions of  
7 this subchapter consistent with the state law;

8           (2) Employ personnel as necessary to assist the board in  
9 performing its function under this subchapter;

10           (3) Establish license renewal requirements and procedures as  
11 deemed appropriate;

12           (4)(A) Secure the services of resource consultants as deemed  
13 necessary by the board.

14           (B) The board shall reimburse resource consultants for all  
15 actual and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in consultative service  
16 to the board; and

17           (5) Establish license examination fees by rule.

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19           17-95-1104. Licensing.

20           (a) A person applying for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant  
21 shall submit an application to the Arkansas State Medical Board on forms  
22 approved by the board.

23           (b)(1) The application shall not be effective for more than one (1)  
24 year from the date of original submission of the application and fee.

25           (2) After one (1) year from the date that the original  
26 application and fee have been received in the office of the board, a new  
27 application and fee is required from any applicant who desires licensure as  
28 an anesthesiologist assistant.

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30           17-95-1105. Application for licensure.

31           (a) An applicant for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant shall  
32 submit an application on a form approved by the Arkansas State Medical Board.

33           (b)(1) An applicant shall obtain a passing score on the examination  
34 administered through the National Commission for Certification of  
35 Anesthesiologist Assistants.

36           (2) The passing score shall be established by the National

1 Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants.

2 (c) The applicant shall be certified in advanced cardiac life support.

3  
4 17-95-1106. Supervisory relationship.

5 (a) An anesthesiologist or a group of anesthesiologists, upon entering  
6 into a supervisory relationship with an anesthesiologist assistant, shall  
7 file with the Arkansas State Medical Board a written protocol, including  
8 without limitation:

9 (1) The name, address, and license number of the  
10 anesthesiologist assistant;

11 (2) The name, address, license number, and Drug Enforcement  
12 Administration registration number of each anesthesiologist who will  
13 supervise the anesthesiologist assistant;

14 (3) The address of the anesthesiologist assistant's primary  
15 practice location and any other locations where the anesthesiologist  
16 assistant may practice;

17 (4) The date the protocol was developed and the dates of all  
18 revisions;

19 (5) The designation and signature of the primary supervising  
20 anesthesiologist;

21 (6) The signatures of the anesthesiologist assistant and all  
22 supervising anesthesiologists;

23 (7) The duties and functions of the anesthesiologist assistant;

24 (8) The conditions or procedures that require the provision of  
25 care by a supervising anesthesiologist; and

26 (9) The procedures to be followed in the event of an anesthetic  
27 emergency.

28 (b) The protocol required under subsection (a) of this section shall  
29 be filed with the board before the time that the anesthesiologist assistant  
30 begins practice with the supervising anesthesiologist or anesthesiology  
31 group.

32 (c) An anesthesiologist assistant may perform the following duties  
33 under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist:

34 (1) Obtain a comprehensive patient history and present the  
35 history to the supervising anesthesiologist;

36 (2) Pretest and calibrate anesthesia delivery systems and

1 monitor, obtain, and interpret information from the systems and monitors;

2 (3) Assist the supervising anesthesiologist with implementation  
3 of monitoring techniques;

4 (4) Establish basic and advanced airway interventions, including  
5 intubations of the trachea and perform ventilator support;

6 (5) Administer intermittent vasoactive drugs and start and  
7 adjust vasoactive infusions;

8 (6) Administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory  
9 drugs;

10 (7) Assist the supervising anesthesiologist with the performance  
11 of epidural anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic procedures;

12 (8) Administer blood, blood products, and supportive fluids;

13 (9) Support life functions during the administration of  
14 anesthesia, including induction and intubation procedures, the use of  
15 appropriate mechanical supportive devices, and the management of fluid,  
16 electrolyte, and blood component balances;

17 (10) Recognize and take appropriate corrective action for  
18 abnormal patient responses to anesthesia, adjunctive medication, or other  
19 forms of therapy;

20 (11) Participate in management of the patient while in the post-  
21 anesthesia recovery area, including the administration of supporting fluids;  
22 and

23 (12) Place special peripheral and central venous and arterial  
24 lines for blood sampling and monitoring as appropriate.

25 (d)(1) The supervising anesthesiologist shall delegate only tasks and  
26 procedures to the anesthesiologist assistant that are within the supervising  
27 anesthesiologist's scope of practice.

28 (2) The anesthesiologist assistant may work in any setting that  
29 is within the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist's  
30 practice.

31 (e) Continuity of supervision in practice settings requires the  
32 anesthesiologist assistant to document in the anesthesia record any change in  
33 supervisor.

34 (f) The tasks and procedures performed by the anesthesiologist  
35 assistant shall be documented in the appropriate medical record.

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1           17-95-1107. Licensure without examination.

2           (a) A person who was engaged in anesthesiology work for at least one  
3 (1) year before January 1, 2022, may receive a license as an anesthesiologist  
4 assistant without examination.

5           (b) A person seeking licensure under this section shall register with  
6 the Arkansas State Medical Board before December 31, 2021, and shall pay the  
7 license fee.

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9           SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act shall become effective on and  
10 after January 1, 2022.