

HB 503 -- Physician Assistants

Sponsor: Sater

This bill expands the definition of "supervision" of physician assistants to allow supervising physicians to be available via telecommunications for consultation, assistance, or intervention.

Supervising physicians must be present a minimum of 20% of the clinic's hours for practice supervision and collaboration when utilizing physician assistants. No physician will supervise more than three physician assistants; however, this provision does not apply to physician agreements with hospital employees.

Physician assistants must practice within 30 miles of the supervising physician, with the mileage limit for practicing in federally designated health professional shortage areas being 50 miles.

The bill requires, after January 1, 2006, that applicants for a physician's assistant license have a master's degree in a health or medical science related field.