

HB 209 -- Collaborative Practice Privileges and Physician Assistant Supervision

Sponsor: Schaaf

This bill grants the same rights and privileges as those given to nurses under collaborative agreements to medical students who have completed two years of medical school and entered into the clinical rotation phase of their training.

The definition of "supervision" of physician assistants is expanded to allow supervising physicians to be available via telecommunications for consultation, assistance, or intervention. Supervising physicians must be present a minimum of 80% of the clinic's hours for practice supervision and collaboration when utilizing physician assistants. Prior to allowing a physician assistant to practice without the physician being physically present, the physician assistant will practice for one month with the supervising physician continuously present. 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, and the supervising agreement between the physician and physician assistant must designate the primary location of practice.

The bill also voids any agreements or contracts which require the physician as a condition of employment to act as a supervising physician for any physician assistant, limit the physician's supervising authority, or require the supervising physician to be employed by an entity in which the physician assistant has a financial interest.

After January 1, 2007, applicants for a physician's assistant license must have a master's degree in a health or medical science related field.

The bill prohibits discrimination against nonboard certified physicians by hospitals that employ advanced practice nurses or physician assistants.