

## HB 497 -- 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 55% of the clinic's hours for practice supervision and collaboration when utilizing physician assistants and 10% of the time when working in federally funded clinics. Physician assistants must practice within 30 miles of the supervising physician or within 50 miles if practicing in a federally funded clinic. Prior to allowing a physician assistant to practice without the physician being physically present, the physician assistant will practice for one month with continuous physician supervision.

After January 1, 2008, physician assistant applicants must have a master's degree in a health or medical science related field.

The bill also voids and makes it against public policy to require any physician to enter into any contract or other agreement to act as a supervising physician for any physician assistant. A physician has the right to refuse to act as a supervising physician, and no contract will limit the supervising physician's ultimate authority over any protocols or standing orders.