

From: "Rep.Petryk" <Rep.Petryk@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Date: January 23, 2012 11:16:58 AM CST
To: "*Legislative All Assembly" <ALLASM@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Cc: "*Legislative All Senate" <ALLSEN@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: **Co-Sponsorship of LRB 3689/1 relating to authorizing medically related actions by physician assistants.**

To: All Legislators

From: Representative Warren Petryk

Date: January 23, 2012

DEADLINE: Noon, January 26, 2012

Re: Co-Sponsorship of LRB 3689/1 relating to authorizing medically related actions by physician assistants.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly educated, licensed health care providers in Wisconsin. PAs receive undergrad degrees, followed by Master's degrees from accredited PA training programs (e.g., the University of Wisconsin-Madison). Upon passage of competency examinations, PAs are licensed by the state and can practice medicine under the direction of a supervising physician, providing primary care as well as practicing in a number of specialties including surgery and emergency care.

In 2005, Assembly Bill 683 was introduced with 31 bipartisan co-sponsors, and was designed to update statutes governing the practices of PAs and Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) authorizing both professionals to perform a variety of services within the scope of their respective education and training.

The updates in 2005 AB 683 for APNs are consistent with the updates in LRB 3689/1 which will allow PAs to:

- Refer patients for physical therapy services;
- Order the use of physical restraints in residential facilities as appropriate;
- Order home health services as appropriate;
- Conduct DOT required drivers' license medical examinations and sign required forms.

Within their physician-supervised scope of practice, currently PAs are authorized under Wisconsin law to issue medication prescriptions (from simple antibiotics to scheduled narcotics) for their patients, without a physician's signature. Also, PAs already perform the examination, patient history and medical decision-making and recommendations for all of the activities listed above – but in each case, a physician's signature is necessary to complete the recommendation, or in the case of DOT exams to attest to the driver's fitness, whether the physician has seen the patient or not. This administrative step slows care, and adds to bureaucratic red tape and expense.

2005 AB 683 was amended before passage to delete all provisions as they applied to PAs, while all provisions applying to APNs were enacted into law. LRB-3689/1 would simply add PAs to all of the same statutory sections as contemplated by the original 2005 AB 683.

LRB-3689/1 already has the support of the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants, the Wisconsin Medical Society, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association, and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

Please see the attached draft, including the LRB analysis, for more information on the legislation.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Marcie in Rep. Petryk's office at 6-0660 by Noon, January 26, 2012.

<<LRB 3689 Physician Assistants.pdf>>