



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 250

Chairperson: Tim Gay
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: January 29, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Nebraska originally authorized physicians to employ Physician Assistants in the early 1970s. In 1985 that authority, with limitations, prior approval and time requirements, expanded to using P.A.s in secondary offices and hospitals.

LB 250 has the goal of updating statute to reflect the reality of how physicians and P.A.s practice medicine today. It changes the required proficiency exam for P.A.s to the one approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. This national exam and organization will assure standardization of practice and adherence to the nationally accepted level of education and scope of practice for P.A.s.

LB 250 eliminates the additional level of credentialing for the supervising physician and allows any physician with an unrestricted license to supervise P.A.s. It increases the number of P.A.s that one physician can supervise from two to four and allows the State Board of Medicine and Surgery to grant a waiver to this restriction.

LB 250 will replace the currently required scope of practice agreement, approved by the State Board of Medicine and Surgery, with an agreement between the physician and P.A. that delineates methods of supervision and evaluation by the physician. This original agreement is to be housed at the physician's main office with copies of the agreement at each satellite office or hospital the P.A. may work in. In the agreement the physician will identify the scope of practice, delegate medical tasks appropriate to the level of competence of each P.A. and establish the process for performance evaluation. A physician assistant with less than two years of experience will have a higher level of supervision to be set by rule and regulation of the Board. LB 250 eliminates the current requirement of supervision stated in hours or percentage of practice time. Obsolete language regarding specialty classifications is eliminated by LB 250 since all education for P.A.s is in primary care. LB 250 eliminates the statutory language regarding a back up physician to supervise the P.A.

LB 250 will allow P.A.s to sign death certificates. Along with the responsibility of signing death certificates comes an extra level of discipline outlined in Neb. Rev. Statute 38-2037.

LB 250 requires the name of the P.A. to be on the prescription label and will comply with federal changes in the electronic prescribing law.

LB 250 does not change the current disciplinary procedures for P.A. or physician under the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act. It does not allow a P.A. to practice without the supervision of a physician. All hospital requirements for the P.A. and supervising physician must be met according to hospital policy.

Principal Introducer:

_____ **Senator Mike Gloor**