

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5318

AS OF FEBRUARY 3, 1993

Brief Description: Changing title of physician's assistants and osteopathic physician's assistants to physician's associates and osteopathic physician's associates.

SPONSORS: Senators Fraser, Deccio, Talmadge and Winsley

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Staff: Shannon Murphy (786-7483)

Hearing Dates: February 4, 1993

BACKGROUND:

It is felt by some that the term "assistant" as used in the title physician assistant and osteopathic assistant is confusing to the public. The confusion is created as the term "assistant" is used frequently in the medical profession to indicate one who performs auxiliary services. It is believed that "assistant" does not denote the level of responsibility required of the physician assistant and osteopathic assistant position.

Physician assistants are required to attend training programs approved by the Board of Medical Examiners. In addition, physician assistants are required to be "licensed" by the Board of Medical Examiners in order to practice as medical professionals.

Osteopathic assistants are required to attend training programs approved by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. In addition, osteopathic assistants are required to be "licensed" by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.

By using the term "associate," some feel that the public and the medical community will have a greater understanding of the responsibilities of the physician assistant and osteopathic assistant. As a result of this understanding any confusion surrounding the responsibilities of the physician assistant and osteopathic assistant will be alleviated.

SUMMARY:

The name "physician assistant" is changed to "physician associate." The name "osteopathic assistant" is changed to "osteopathic associate."

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested