

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 5499

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Health Care & Wellness

**Title:** An act relating to credentialing of medical assistant-hemodialysis technicians.

**Brief Description:** Concerning credentialing of medical assistant-hemodialysis technicians.

**Sponsors:** Senators Cleveland, Muzzall, Randall and Wilson, C..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care & Wellness: 2/16/22, 2/21/22 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Allows individuals applying for licensure as medical assistant-hemodialysis technicians to practice for 120 days after their applications have been filed.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Bateman, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bronoske, Davis, Harris, Macri, Maycumber, Riccelli, Rude, Simmons, Stonier, Tharinger and Ybarra.

**Staff:** Jim Morishima (786-7191).

**Background:**

There are several types of medical assistants (MAs) licensed by the Department of Health, including MA-hemodialysis technicians. An MA-hemodialysis technician performs hemodialysis when delegated and supervised by certain health care practitioners. In order

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to become licensed as an MA-hemodialysis technician, an applicant must complete a training program or hold a national credential that is the equivalent of the training program. In addition, the applicant must have a high school education, the ability to read, write, and converse in English, basic math skills, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification.

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**Summary of Bill:**

In order to facilitate patient continuity of care and to allow sufficient time for application processing, an applicant for certification as a medical assistant-hemodialysis technician who has completed the training program may continue to work at a dialysis facility under the level of supervision required for the training program for a period of 120 days after the application is filed.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) Kidney dialysis facilities are facing staffing issues. Medical assistant-hemodialysis technicians (MA-hemodialysis technicians) receive four to 12 weeks of on-the-job training in hemodialysis facilities, after which they may apply for a license. Current law requires care to be stopped while the application is processed, which creates a treatment gap. This is disruptive to patient care and exacerbates provider shortages. Streamlining the process will help staffing challenges and increase continuity of care. This bill will allow MA-hemodialysis technicians to continue to practice for 120 days under the same level of supervision, which will assure continuity of care while their applications are being processed.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Leslie Emerick, Fresenius Medical Care North America.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.