

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2952 of the Code of Virginia, relating to supervision of physician*  
3 *assistants.*

4  
5 Approved

[H 687]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That § 54.1-2952 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 54.1-2952. Supervision of assistants by licensed physician, or podiatrist; services that may be  
9 performed by assistants; responsibility of licensee; employment of assistants.

10 A. A physician or a podiatrist licensed under this chapter may apply to the Board to supervise  
11 assistants and delegate certain acts which constitute the practice of medicine to the extent and in the  
12 manner authorized by the Board. *The physician shall provide continuous supervision as required by this*  
13 *section; however, the requirement for physician supervision of assistants shall not be construed as*  
14 *requiring the physical presence of the supervising physician during all times and places of service*  
15 *delivery by assistants. Each team of supervising physician and physician assistant shall identify the*  
16 *relevant physician assistant's scope of practice, including, but not limited to, the delegation of medical*  
17 *tasks as appropriate to the physician assistant's level of competence, the physician assistant's*  
18 *relationship with and access to the supervising physician, and an evaluation process for the physician*  
19 *assistant's performance.*

20 No licensee shall be allowed to supervise more than two assistants at any one time.

21 Any professional corporation or partnership of any licensee, any hospital and any commercial  
22 enterprise having medical facilities for its employees which are supervised by one or more physicians or  
23 podiatrists may employ one or more assistants in accordance with the provisions of this section.

24 Activities shall be delegated in a manner consistent with sound medical practice and the protection of  
25 the health and safety of the patient. Such services shall be limited to those which are educational,  
26 diagnostic, therapeutic or preventive in nature, but shall not include the establishment of a final  
27 diagnosis or treatment plan for the patient or the prescribing or dispensing of drugs, except as provided  
28 in § 54.1-2952.1. In addition, a licensee is authorized to delegate and supervise initial and ongoing  
29 evaluation and treatment of any patient in a hospital, including its emergency department, when  
30 performed under the direction, supervision and control of the supervising licensee. When practicing in a  
31 hospital, the assistant shall report any acute or significant finding or change in a patient's clinical status  
32 to the supervising physician as soon as circumstances require, and shall record such finding in  
33 appropriate institutional records. The assistant shall transfer to a supervising physician the direction of  
34 care of a patient in an emergency department who has a life-threatening injury or illness. The  
35 supervising physician shall review, prior to the patient's discharge, the services rendered to each patient  
36 by a physician assistant in a hospital's emergency department. An assistant practicing in an emergency  
37 department shall be under the supervision of a physician present within the facility.

38 B. No assistant shall perform any delegated acts except at the direction of the licensee and under his  
39 supervision and control. No physician assistant practicing in a hospital shall render care to a patient  
40 unless the physician responsible for that patient has signed the protocol, pursuant to regulations of the  
41 Board, to act as supervising physician for that assistant. Every licensee, professional corporation or  
42 partnership of licensees, hospital or commercial enterprise that employs an assistant shall be fully  
43 responsible for the acts of the assistant in the care and treatment of human beings.

44 **2. That the Board of Medicine shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act**  
45 **to be effective within 280 days of its enactment.**

ENROLLED

HB687ER