

House Bill 1352

By: Representatives Childers of the 13th and Hudson of the 120th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 physicians, physician´s assistants, acupuncture, and respiratory care, so as to provide for the
3 supervision of physician´s assistants by a physician; to provide definitions; to require notice
4 to the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners of the names of physicians who serve
5 as alternate supervising physicians for each physician´s assistant; to provide for related
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to physicians,
10 physician´s assistants, acupuncture, and respiratory care, is amended by striking Code
11 Section 43-34-102, relating to definitions, and inserting in its place the following:

12 "43-34-102.

13 As used in this article, the term:

14 (1) 'Alternate supervising physician' means a physician to whom a primary supervising
15 physician has delegated the responsibility of supervising a physician´s assistant who is
16 licensed to that primary supervising physician and who agrees to supervise the
17 physician´s assistant for the primary supervising physician and who is on record with the
18 board.

19 (2) 'Board' means the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners as created by Code
20 Section 43-34-21.

21 ~~(2)~~(3) 'Carry out a prescription drug or device order' means to complete, on a form
22 established and approved by the board, a written prescription drug order or a prescription
23 device order pursuant to the authority delegated by a supervising physician.

24 ~~(3)~~(4) 'Evaluation agency' means a public or private hospital, school, laboratory, clinic,
25 federal or state institution or agency, or similar facility which has been approved by the
26 board as possessing personnel and equipment and as having had practice in a health care

1 field sufficient to be able to make an objective appraisal, in a manner prescribed by the
 2 board, of the proposed physician's assistant's qualifications to perform the tasks
 3 described in the job description.

4 ~~(4)~~(5) 'Physician' means a person lawfully licensed in this state to practice medicine and
 5 surgery pursuant to Article 2 of this chapter.

6 ~~(5)~~(6) 'Physician's assistant' means a skilled person qualified by academic and practical
 7 training to provide patients' services not necessarily within the physical presence but
 8 under the personal direction or supervision of the applying physician.

9 (7) 'Primary supervising physician' means the physician to whom the board licenses a
 10 physician's assistant pursuant to a board approved job description and who has the
 11 primary responsibility for supervising the practice of that physician's assistant."

12 SECTION 2.

13 Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (b) of Code Section 43-34-103,
 14 relating to application for assistant, number of assistants, new job descriptions, scope of
 15 duties, employment by nonpracticing physicians, and delegated authority, and inserting in
 16 its place the following:

17 "(b)(1) No primary supervising physician shall have more than four physician's assistants
 18 licensed to him or her at ~~any one~~ a time; provided, however, that no physician may
 19 supervise more than two physician's assistants at any one time except as provided in
 20 paragraph (2) of this subsection.

21 ~~(2)(A) A physician may supervise more than two~~ as many as four physician's assistants
 22 at any one time while on call for a solo practitioner or as a member of a group practice
 23 ~~setting including but not limited to clinics, hospitals, and other institutions. The~~
 24 ~~physician taking call must be approved to supervise the physician's assistant of the~~
 25 ~~physician for whom he or she is taking call~~ practicing in a group practice in which other
 26 physician members of such group practice are primary supervising physicians.

27 (B) A physician may supervise as many as four physician's assistants at any one time
 28 while acting as an alternate supervising physician:

29 (i) In an institutional setting such as a hospital or clinic;

30 (ii) On call for a primary supervising physician or a group practice; or

31 (iii) If otherwise approved by the board to act as an alternate supervising physician.

32 (3) A primary supervising physician shall designate in writing to the board such other
 33 physicians who may serve as an alternate supervising physician for each physician's
 34 assistant licensed to such primary supervising physician. The board shall have authority
 35 to approve or deny such designations in whole or in part. Provided, however, a physician
 36 may be listed as an alternate supervising physician for any number of physician's

1 assistants so long as he or she only supervises as many physician's assistant at any one
2 time as allowed by paragraph (2) of this subsection."

3 **SECTION 3.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.