

Senate Bill 423

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Mullis of the 53rd and Thomas of the 54th

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 44 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to renal
 2 disease facilities, so as to provide a short title; to revise a definition for purposes of
 3 conformity; to revise certain provisions relating to the adoption of rules relative to end stage
 4 renal disease facilities and personnel thereof; to revise certain provisions relating to
 5 minimum standards for curricula, instructors, and training dialysis and reuse technicians; to
 6 amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of
 7 professions and businesses, so as to add a new Chapter 30A regulating dialysis technicians;
 8 to provide for definitions; to provide for certification requirements for dialysis technicians;
 9 to provide for the renewal and reinstatement of certificates; to provide for powers of the
 10 Georgia Board of Nursing relating to the regulation of dialysis technicians; to provide for
 11 authorized activities of dialysis technicians; to provide for delegation of dialysis care by a
 12 registered professional nurse to a dialysis technician; to provide for the use of titles and other
 13 indications of certification; to provide for applications under oath; to provide for the creation,
 14 composition, and duties of the Dialysis Technician Advisory Council; to provide for
 15 disciplinary actions; to provide for violations; to provide for actions to enjoin; to provide for
 16 administrative procedures; to revise certain provisions relating to the nonapplicability of
 17 Code Section 43-34-177 for purposes of conformity; to provide for related matters; to
 18 provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

19 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

20 **SECTION 1.**

21 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Ray Biddy and Gene Mullis Act."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Chapter 44 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to renal disease
 24 facilities, is amended in Code Section 31-44-1, relating to definitions, by striking paragraph
 25 (2) and inserting in its place the following:

S. B. 423

"CHAPTER 30A

43-30A-1.

As used in this chapter, the term:

(1) 'Applicant' means any person seeking a certificate under this chapter.

(2) 'Approved dialysis technician training curriculum' means a board approved curriculum used to train dialysis technicians including, but not limited to, a board approved dialysis company or facility-sponsored training curriculum or another state approved curriculum.

(3) 'Board' means the Georgia Board of Nursing established pursuant to Code Section 43-26-4.

(4) 'Certificate' means a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the board pursuant to this chapter permitting a person to provide dialysis care as a dialysis technician.

(5) 'Dialysis care' means performing and monitoring dialysis procedures, including initiating and discontinuing dialysis, drawing blood, and administering medications in accordance with this chapter and with board rules.

(6) 'Dialysis facility' means an end stage renal disease facility licensed pursuant to Chapter 44 of Title 31.

(7) 'Dialysis technician' means a person who provides dialysis care.

(8) 'Dialysis technician trainee' means a person enrolled in an approved dialysis technician training curriculum.

(9) 'Direct supervision' means initial and ongoing direction, procedural guidance, and observation and evaluation by a registered professional nurse or physician; and when a patient is being dialyzed, the nurse or physician is in the immediate clinical care area.

(10) 'National certification' means certification as a dialysis technician issued by a nationally recognized accrediting organization such as, but not limited to:

(A) Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) through the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC);

(B) Certified Hemodialysis Technician (CHT) through the Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing and Technology (BONENT); or

(C) Certified Clinical Nephrology Technician (CCNT) or Certified Biomedical Nephrology Technician (CBNT) through the National Nephrology Certification Organization (NNCO).

(11) 'Person' means a natural person only.

(12) 'Physician' means an individual who is licensed to practice medicine under Article 2 of Chapter 34 of this title.

1 (13) 'Registered professional nurse' means an individual who is licensed to practice
2 nursing under Article 1 of Chapter 26 of this title.

3 43-30A-2.

4 (a) On and after January 1, 2007, no person may provide dialysis care as a dialysis
5 technician in this state who is not licensed pursuant to this chapter. All applicants for a
6 certificate to practice as a dialysis technician shall make application to the board in the
7 form and manner established by the board. Such applicants shall submit to the board a
8 designated fee and written evidence demonstrating that the applicant:

9 (1) Is of good moral character;

10 (2) Has attained a high school diploma or a general educational development (GED)
11 diploma or the equivalent thereof;

12 (3) Has successfully completed an approved dialysis technician training curriculum;

13 (4) Has achieved national certification as a dialysis technician; and

14 (5) Has met such other qualifications as required by the board.

15 (b) An individual who was working on or before July 1, 2006, as a dialysis technician in
16 a dialysis facility and whose administrative registered professional nurse in charge
17 acknowledges that he or she is competent to perform the delegated duties and practices in
18 accordance with the laws regulating the provision of dialysis care, the rules of the board,
19 and any other applicable federal and state laws and regulations shall be considered as
20 having met the requirements of paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (a) of this Code
21 section for the purposes of being certified by the board as a dialysis technician.

22 (c) An individual who has successfully completed an approved dialysis technician training
23 curriculum on or before July 1, 2007, who was working on or before July 1, 2006, as a
24 dialysis technician trainee in a dialysis facility and whose administrative registered
25 professional nurse in charge acknowledges that he or she is competent to perform the
26 delegated duties and practices in accordance with the laws regulating the provision of
27 dialysis care, the rules of the board, and any other applicable federal and state laws and
28 regulations shall be considered as having met the requirements of paragraph (4) of
29 subsection (a) of this Code section for the purposes of being certified by the board as a
30 dialysis technician.

31 (d) The board may, upon receipt of a completed application and fee, issue a temporary
32 permit to practice as a dialysis technician to an applicant who has completed an approved
33 dialysis technician training curriculum and who meets the qualifications established by the
34 board. A temporary permit shall not be renewable, and shall be effective 90 days from the
35 date of issuance, unless the board revokes the temporary permit prior to its expiration.

1 (e) The board may, upon receipt of a completed application and fee, issue a temporary
2 endorsement to practice as a patient care dialysis technician to an applicant who has been
3 certified as a dialysis technician under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign
4 country and who meets the qualifications established by the board. A temporary
5 endorsement shall not be renewable and shall be effective for 90 days unless the board
6 revokes the temporary endorsement prior to its expiration.

7 (f) Application for a certificate under this Code section shall constitute consent for
8 performance of a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application
9 to the board for certification agrees to provide the board with any and all information
10 necessary to run a criminal background check, including but not limited to classifiable sets
11 of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
12 performance of a background check. The board may accept the results of criminal
13 background checks conducted by an applicant's employer if they were conducted within
14 an acceptable period of time and if they include the minimum required checks.

15 43-30A-3.

16 (a) Certificates issued under this chapter shall be renewed biennially prior to the expiration
17 of the certificate according to schedules and fees decided by the board.

18 (b) A certificate shall be renewed for any dialysis technician who remits the required fee
19 and complies with the requirements established by the board. The board shall be
20 authorized to require persons seeking renewal of a certificate to complete board approved
21 continuing education.

22 (c) The voluntary surrender of a certificate or the failure to renew a certificate by the end
23 of an established renewal period shall have the same effect as revocation of said certificate,
24 subject to reinstatement at the discretion of the board. The board may restore and reissue
25 a certificate, and, as a condition thereof, may impose any disciplinary sanction provided
26 by Code Section 43-1-19 upon such grounds as specified in such Code section.

27 (d) Any certificate that is not renewed by the end of the renewal period may not thereafter
28 be renewed, and the certificate holder must apply for reinstatement. Applicants for
29 reinstatement who have not been engaged in the active practice of dialysis care as a dialysis
30 technician for a period which exceeds five years shall be required to obtain such additional
31 education and training as provided in the rules and regulations of the board, which may
32 include but not be limited to returning to school for full training and taking the certification
33 examination. Upon completion of the curriculum, an application may be made for
34 certification as a new applicant.

1 (e) Other criteria for reinstatement may be determined by the rules of the board, including
2 but not limited to the following: additional coursework, a refresher course, supervised
3 clinical practice, or examination by the board.

4 43-30A-4.

5 (a) The board shall have the power to:

6 (1) Examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants for certification
7 as dialysis technicians in this state;

8 (2) Establish minimum standards for the determination of the competency of individuals
9 who have been trained as dialysis technicians;

10 (3) Establish standards for approving and withdrawing approval of dialysis technician
11 training curricula;

12 (4) Establish minimum standards for the curricula and instructors used to train
13 individuals to act as dialysis technicians in approved dialysis technician training
14 curricula;

15 (5) Issue, renew, refuse to renew, deny, suspend, reinstate, and revoke certificates of
16 dialysis technicians in this state or otherwise discipline dialysis technicians;

17 (6) Determine the acts and practices that are allowed or prohibited for dialysis
18 technicians, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter;

19 (7) Establish continuing education requirements for dialysis technicians which may
20 include any continuing education requirements for national certification;

21 (8) Conduct investigations for the purpose of discovering violations of this chapter or
22 grounds for disciplining persons certificated under this chapter;

23 (9) Hold hearings on all matters pertaining to this chapter properly brought before the
24 board and, in conjunction therewith, to administer oaths, receive evidence, make the
25 necessary determinations, and enter orders consistent with the findings. The board may
26 designate one or more of its members as its hearing officer;

27 (10) Adopt rules and regulations consistent with this chapter necessary to enable it to
28 carry into effect the provisions of this chapter, including disciplinary rules;

29 (11) Establish fees pertaining to this chapter; and

30 (12) Bring proceedings to the courts for the enforcement of this chapter or any rules and
31 regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter.

32 (b) In addition to the enumerated powers in subsection (a) of this Code section, the board
33 has the authority to conduct its business pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 43-1-19
34 which is incorporated herein and made a part of this chapter by specific reference.

1 43-30A-5.

2 (a) A dialysis technician may provide dialysis care when delegated to him or her by a
3 registered professional nurse if:

4 (1) The dialysis technician has a valid certificate issued pursuant to this chapter;

5 (2) The registered professional nurse considers the dialysis technician to be competent;
6 and

7 (3) The dialysis technician provides the care under the direct supervision of the
8 registered professional nurse.

9 (b) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit a dialysis technician trainee from
10 performing dialysis care as a part of and within the scope of the clinical skills instruction
11 segment of an approved dialysis technician training curriculum.

12 43-30A-6.

13 A dialysis technician is authorized to perform the following activities, under the direct
14 supervision of a registered professional nurse or a physician:

15 (1) Preparing and initiating dialysis access sites;

16 (2) Initiating, delivering, or discontinuing dialysis care;

17 (3) Administering only the following medications:

18 (A) Heparin to prime the pump, initiate treatment, or for administration through
19 treatment in an amount prescribed by a physician or other authorized practitioner; this
20 may be done intravenously, peripherally via a fistula needle, or in another clinically
21 acceptable manner;

22 (B) Normal saline via the dialysis extra corporeal circuit as needed through the dialysis
23 procedure; this may be done intravenously, peripherally via a fistula needle, or in
24 another clinically acceptable manner; and

25 (C) Intradermal anesthetic in an amount prescribed by a physician or other authorized
26 practitioner;

27 (4) Obtaining a blood specimen via the dialysis extra corporeal circuit or a peripheral
28 access site;

29 (5) Reporting changes that arise in conjunction with dialysis care to the registered
30 professional nurse or physician; and

31 (6) Engaging in other acts as delegated by the registered professional nurse or physician
32 in order to provide dialysis care.

33 43-30A-7.

34 (a) An individual licensed by the board as a dialysis technician pursuant to the provisions
35 of this chapter shall be known as a dialysis technician and may use the initials 'D.T.' after

1 his or her name. On and after July 1, 2006, no other individual may use the title,
2 abbreviation, or any other words, letters, figures, signs, or devices to indicate that he or she
3 is a dialysis technician in this state.

4 (b) An individual enrolled in an approved dialysis technician training curriculum shall be
5 known as a dialysis technician trainee. A dialysis technician trainee shall adhere to the
6 rules and regulations of the board for dialysis technicians and is subject to disciplinary
7 action by the board as provided by board rules.

8 43-30A-8.

9 The board may require that all applications be made under oath.

10 43-30A-9.

11 (a) There is created the Dialysis Technician Advisory Council, which shall advise the
12 board on issues relating to the qualifications, standards for training, competency
13 determination of dialysis technicians, and all other matters relating to dialysis technicians.

14 (b) The council shall be appointed by the board and shall consist of eight members as
15 follows:

16 (1) One member of the board, who shall serve as chairperson of the council;

17 (2) Two dialysis technicians;

18 (3) Two registered professional nurses who regularly provide dialysis care and care for
19 patients who receive dialysis;

20 (4) One physician who regularly treats patients receiving dialysis care; and

21 (5) Two dialysis or kidney transplant patients.

22 (c) The board shall specify the length of terms of the members.

23 (d) Members of the council shall be reimbursed for expenses and travel as provided for
24 members of various professional licensing boards in subsection (f) of Code Section 43-1-2.

25 43-30A-10.

26 The investigatory and disciplinary authority of the board shall be as provided in Code
27 Section 43-1-19.

28 43-30A-11.

29 (a) It shall be unlawful for any individual, firm, corporation, facility, or association to:

30 (1) Sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish any national certification credential or
31 documentation of successful completion of an approved dialysis technician training
32 curriculum or aid or abet therein;

1 (2) Perform services as a dialysis technician unless authorized by the provisions of this
2 chapter;

3 (3) Use in connection with his or her name any designation tending to imply that he or
4 she is a dialysis technician unless authorized by the provisions of this chapter; or

5 (4) Otherwise violate any provision of this chapter.

6 (b) Any person who violates this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
7 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not less than \$500.00 or more than
8 \$1,000.00.

9 (c) Each act of unlawful practice under this Code section shall constitute a distinct and
10 separate offense.

11 43-30A-12.

12 (a) The practice of dialysis care is declared to be an activity affecting the public interest
13 and involving the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Such practice by a person who
14 is not certificated to practice in this state is declared to be a public nuisance, harmful to the
15 public health, safety, and welfare.

16 (b) Any citizen of this state, the board, or the appropriate prosecuting attorney where such
17 practice is carried out by such uncertificated person may, on behalf of the public, bring an
18 action to restrain and enjoin such uncertificated practice in the superior court of the county
19 where such uncertificated person resides or works. It shall not be necessary in order to
20 obtain an injunction under this Code section to allege or prove that there is no adequate
21 remedy at law or to allege or prove any special injury.

22 (c) The remedy provided for in this Code section shall be cumulative to, and not in lieu of,
23 any other remedy or penalty provided in this chapter or otherwise provided by law.

24 43-30A-13.

25 Proceedings under this chapter shall be governed by Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia
26 Administrative Procedure Act.'

27 **SECTION 6.**

28 Said title is further amended in Code Section 43-34-178, relating to the nonapplicability of
29 Code Section 43-34-177, by striking paragraph (6) of subsection (a) and inserting in its place
30 the following:

31 "(6) A person working as a dialysis ~~care~~ technician in an end stage renal disease facility
32 licensed pursuant to Chapter 44 of Title 31 or a licensed hospital."

1 **SECTION 7.**

2 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2006.

3 **SECTION 8.**

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