



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

18 VAC 85-50– Regulations Governing the Practice of Physician Assistants
Department of Health Professions
April 17, 2013

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The Board of Medicine (the Board) proposes 1) to no longer require that a physician supervising a physician assistant notify the Board when he or she must be absent from the practice provided there is an alternate supervisor present at the practice, and 2) to allow either the supervising physician or the assistant to inform the Board if the physician assistant will discontinue working under the physician with whom he has a practice agreement on file.

Result of Analysis

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

Estimated Economic Impact

The proposed changes will no longer require that a physician supervising a physician assistant notify the Board when he or she must be absent from the practice provided there is an alternate supervisor present at the practice. Currently, the regulations require the supervisor to notify the Board if he or she is unable to supervise due to illness, vacation, unexpected absence, or planned absence and must temporarily delegate supervision to another physician. The amended regulation will require a report only in the absence of both the supervisor and the alternate supervising physician. This change is expected to reduce the supervising physician's time and postage costs associated with such notifications since a reduction in the number of required notifications will result from this change.

In addition, the proposed changes will amend the regulatory language to allow either the supervising physician or the assistant to inform the Board if the physician assistant will discontinue working under the physician with whom he has a practice agreement on file. Current language requires both the supervising physician and the assistant to inform the Board. However,

in practice, the Department of Health Professions (DHP) accepts this notification from both the supervising physician and the assistant. Even though there will be no change in the current practice followed by DHP, a reduction in the number of duplicate notifications may be expected due to the misleading nature of the current regulatory language.

Businesses and Entities Affected

There are currently 2,622 licensed physician assistants. The number of supervising physicians is not known.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed regulations apply throughout the Commonwealth.

Projected Impact on Employment

No significant impact on employment is expected.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

A small reduction in time and postage costs may be expected from reduced reporting requirements. If the business entity for which the supervising physician or physician assistant is working for is responsible for handling such notifications, the expected reduction in costs should have a positive impact on the asset value of the business. However, the magnitude of such impact is likely to be very small.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

If the supervising physician or physician assistant is working for a small business, the small business may benefit from reduced reporting requirements depending on whether the business entity is responsible for handling such notifications.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to have an adverse impact on small businesses.

Real Estate Development Costs

No significant impact on real estate development costs is expected.

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.04 of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 14 (10). Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, a determination of the public benefit, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has an adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.