

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 158

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

HEALTH CARE. Provides for authority, responsibilities, and physician collaboration of a physician's assistant. (8/1/22)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1360.21, 1360.22(1), (5), (7), (8), and (9), 1360.23, the
3 introductory paragraph of 1360.24(A), 1360.24(A)(3), (4), and (5), (B), 1360.26,
4 1360.27, 1360.28, 1360.29, 1360.30, 1360.31(A), (B), (C)(1), (2), and (3), 1360.32,
5 the introductory paragraph of 1360.33, 1360.33(5) and (6), the introductory
6 paragraph of 1360.34, 1360.34(4) and (5), 1360.35, 1360.36, and 1360.38(A), to
7 enact R.S. 37:1360.22(10), 1360.24(A)(9), 1360.25, and 1360.31(E), and to repeal
8 R.S. 1360.24(C) and (D), relative to physician assistants; to provide definitions and
9 provide for duties of collaborating physicians; to provide for scope and authority of
10 a physician assistant; to provide for the legal responsibility of physician assistant's
11 patient care activities; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 37:1360.21, 1360.22(1), (5), (7), (8), and (9), 1360.23, the
14 introductory paragraph of 1360.24(A), 1360.24(A)(3), (4), and (5), (B), 1360.26, 1360.27,
15 1360.28, 1360.29, 1360.30, 1360.31(A), (B), (C)(1), (2), and (3), 1360.32, the introductory
16 paragraph of 1360.33, 1360.33(5) and (6), the introductory paragraph of 1360.34, 1360.34(4)
17 and (5), 1360.35, 1360.36, and 1360.38(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.

1 37:1360.22(10), 1360.24(A)(9), 1360.25, and 1360.31(E) are hereby enacted to read as
2 follows:

3 §1360.21. Legislative intent

4 A. Shortages of all skilled health personnel, particularly in rural and urban
5 medically underserved areas and in the field of primary care medicine, new scientific
6 and technological developments, and new methods of organizing health services
7 have made the question of new uses for allied health personnel the critical issue to
8 be resolved if our supply of health manpower is to be used effectively and
9 productively. In its concern with the growing shortage and geographic
10 maldistribution of health care services in Louisiana, the rising cost of health care
11 services in the state and nationally, and the need for **access to** primary health care
12 by thousands of Louisiana citizens, the legislature intends to modernize the laws
13 governing physician assistant (**PA**) practice.

14 B. Physician assistants (**PA**s) are health care professionals qualified by
15 academic and clinical education and licensed by the Louisiana State Board of
16 Medical Examiners to provide health care services ~~at the direction and under the~~
17 ~~supervision of~~ **in collaboration with** a physician or a group of physicians approved
18 by the board as a supervising physician.

19 ~~C. It is the intent of this Part to permit the more effective utilization of the~~
20 ~~skills of physicians, particularly in the primary care setting, by enabling them to~~
21 ~~delegate medical services to qualified physician assistants when such delegation is~~
22 ~~consistent with the patient's health and welfare.~~

23 ~~D. C.~~ It is the intent of this Part to encourage and permit the utilization of
24 physician assistants by physicians **PA**s and assist in the development of the physician
25 assistant **PA** profession and allow for innovative developments of programs for the
26 education of ~~physician assistants~~ **PA**s. It is also the purpose of this Part to provide
27 for a system of licensing ~~physician assistants and regulating their relationship with~~
28 ~~supervising physicians so that a high quality of service is assured~~ **PA**s.

29 §1360.22. Definitions

1 As used in this Part:

2 (1) "Approved program" means a program for the education and training of
3 ~~physician assistants~~ **PA**s which has been formally approved by the Committee on
4 Allied Health Education and Accreditation, its predecessors, or its successors.

5 * * *

6 (5) "Physician assistant" **or "PA"** means a health professional qualified by
7 academic and clinical education and licensed by the Louisiana State Board of
8 Medical Examiners to provide health care services ~~at the direction and under the~~
9 ~~supervision of~~ **in collaboration with** a physician or a group of physicians ~~approved~~
10 ~~by the board as a supervising physician.~~

11 * * *

12 (7) "Supervising **Collaborating** physician" means a physician who has been
13 ~~approved by the board to supervise a physician assistant~~ **refers to a physician**
14 **actively engaged in clinical practice and the provision of patient care with whom**
15 **the PA has developed and signed a collaborative practice agreement for**
16 **prescriptive and distributing authority and who holds a current,**
17 **unencumbered, unrestricted and valid medical license issued or recognized by**
18 **the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and is in good standing with**
19 **no pending disciplinary proceedings, and practices in accordance with the rules**
20 **of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.**

21 (8) "Supervision" ~~means responsible direction and control, with the~~
22 ~~supervising physician assuming legal liability for the services rendered by the~~
23 ~~physician assistant in the course and scope of the physician assistant's employment.~~
24 ~~Such supervision shall not be construed in every case to require the physical~~
25 ~~presence of the supervising physician. However, the supervising physician and~~
26 ~~physician assistant must have the capability to be in contact with each other by either~~
27 ~~telephone or other telecommunications device. Supervision shall exist when the~~
28 ~~supervising physician responsible for the patient gives informed concurrence of the~~
29 ~~action of a physician assistant, whether given prior to or after the action, and when~~

1 ~~a medical treatment plan or action is made in accordance with written clinical~~
2 ~~practice guidelines or protocols set forth by the supervising physician. The level and~~
3 ~~method of supervision shall be at the physician and physician assistant level, shall~~
4 ~~be documented and reviewed annually, and shall reflect the acuity of the patient care~~
5 ~~and nature of the procedure. "Collaboration" refers to a cooperative working~~
6 ~~relationship with a collaborating physician or physicians to jointly contribute~~
7 ~~to providing patient care and may include but not be limited to discussion of a~~
8 ~~patient's diagnosis and cooperation in the management and delivery of health~~
9 ~~care with each provider performing those activities that he is legally authorized~~
10 ~~to perform.~~

11 (9) "Collaborative practice agreement" means a written statement
12 addressing the parameters of the collaborative practice which are mutually
13 agreed upon by the PA and one or more licensed physicians. The collaborative
14 practice agreement shall include but not be limited to the following provisions:

15 (a) Availability of the collaborating physician for consultation or
16 referral, or both.

17 (b) Methods of management of the collaborative practice which shall
18 include clinical practice guidelines.

19 (c) Coverage of the health care needs of a patient during any absence of
20 the PA or physician.

21 (10) "Trainee" means a person who is currently enrolled in an approved
22 physician assistant program.

23 §1360.23. Powers and duties of the board

24 A. The board shall have and exercise all powers and duties previously
25 granted to it, subject to the provisions of Title 36 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
26 of 1950. The powers and authority granted to the board by this Part shall be subject
27 to the provisions of Title 36 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and
28 particularly R.S. 36:259(A) and 803. Except as otherwise provided by this Part, the
29 board shall also have the power, in consultation with the Physician Assistants

1 Advisory Committee, to make rules and regulations pertaining to the approval and
2 regulation of ~~physician assistants~~ **PAs** and the approval and regulation of physicians
3 applying to become ~~supervising~~ **collaborating** physicians.

4 B. The board shall have the authority to approve or reject an application for
5 licensure as a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA**. Licensure shall be valid for no more than one
6 year but may be renewed annually.

7 C. The board shall have the authority to approve or reject an application by
8 a licensed physician or physicians to act as a ~~supervising~~ **collaborating** physician,
9 within the bounds of this Part and rules and regulations promulgated by the board.

10 D. The board shall make and enforce orders, rules, and regulations for the
11 revocation or suspension of approval of licensure to act as a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA**,
12 and for the revocation and suspension of approval of ~~supervising~~ **collaborating**
13 physicians.

14 E. The board shall cooperate and participate in federal, state, and private
15 programs for the training, employment, and utilization of ~~allied health personnel~~
16 **PAs**.

17 F. The board may adopt rules and regulations as are reasonably necessary to
18 carry out the intent, purposes, and provisions of this Part.

19 G. ~~A physician, approved by the board as a supervising physician, practicing~~
20 ~~in a private practice, group practice, partnership, professional medical corporation,~~
21 ~~or employed by a hospital or other health care organization or entity may be the~~
22 ~~primary supervising physician for up to eight physician assistants. Physician~~
23 ~~assistants~~ **PAs** may be employed by a group practice or partnership of physicians or
24 a professional medical corporation duly qualified under R.S. 12:901 et seq., as
25 amended, or a hospital or other health care organization or entity, ~~as long as such~~
26 ~~physician assistants are being supervised by a qualified supervising physician.~~

27 H. The board shall ensure that applicants for the program shall not be
28 discriminated against due to race, color, creed, age, sex, disability, as defined in R.S.
29 51:2232, or national origin.

1 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part to the contrary, any person
2 who before and on June 16, 1993, is currently practicing as a ~~physician assistant~~ PA
3 under supervision of a licensed physician shall be licensed as a ~~physician assistant~~
4 PA.

5 §1360.24. Licensure

6 A. Except as otherwise provided for in this Part, an individual shall be
7 licensed by the board before the individual may practice as a ~~physician assistant~~ PA.
8 The board may grant a license to a ~~physician assistant~~ PA applicant who:

9 * * *

10 (3) Has successfully completed an education program for ~~physician assistants~~
11 PAs accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation, its
12 predecessors, or its successors and who has passed the physician assistant national
13 certifying examination administered by the National Commission on Certification
14 of Physicians' Assistants.

15 (4) Certifies that he is mentally and physically able to engage in practice as
16 a ~~physician assistant~~ PA.

17 (5) Has no licensure, certification, or registration as a ~~physician assistant~~ PA
18 in any jurisdiction under current discipline, revocation, suspension, or probation for
19 cause resulting from the applicant's practice as a ~~physician assistant~~ PA, unless the
20 board considers such condition and agrees to licensure.

21 * * *

22 **(9) Is qualified for enrollment in the Patient's Compensation Fund.**

23 B. A personal interview of a ~~physician assistant~~ PA applicant shall be
24 required only in those cases where the ~~assistant~~ PA is making his first application
25 before the board and where discrepancies exist in the application or the applicant has
26 been subject to prior adverse licensure, certification, or registration action.

27 **§1360.25. Enrollment in the Patient's Compensation Fund**

28 **Each physician assistant shall enroll in the Patient's Compensation Fund**
29 **upon licensure and continue to fulfill all of the requirements for enrollment in**

1 the fund as a condition of licensure unless the Patient's Compensation Fund
 2 ceases to exist or physician assistants become ineligible for enrollment.

3 §1360.26. Inactive license

4 Any ~~physician assistant~~ PA who notifies the board in writing on forms
 5 prescribed by the board may elect to place his licensure on an inactive status. A
 6 ~~physician assistant~~ PA with an inactive status license shall be excused from payment
 7 of renewal fees and shall not practice as a ~~physician assistant~~ PA. Any licensee who
 8 engages in practice while his or her license is lapsed or on inactive status shall be
 9 considered to be practicing without a license, which shall be grounds for discipline
 10 under R.S. 37:1360.34. A ~~physician assistant~~ PA requesting restoration to active
 11 status from inactive status shall be required to pay the current renewal fees and shall
 12 be required to meet the criteria for renewal as provided for in R.S. 37:1360.27.

13 §1360.27. Renewal

14 A. Each person who holds a license as a ~~physician assistant~~ PA in this state
 15 shall, upon notification from the board, renew ~~said~~ the license by:

- 16 (1) Submitting the appropriate fee as determined by the board.
 17 (2) Completing the appropriate forms.
 18 (3) **Submitting proof of enrollment in the Patient's Compensation Fund.**
 19 (4) Meeting any other requirements set forth by the board.

20 B. A ~~physician assistant~~ PA seeking licensure renewal will not be required
 21 to make a personal appearance before the board, unless the ~~assistant~~ PA is currently
 22 engaged in a licensure revocation or discipline proceeding.

23 §1360.28. ~~Supervision of~~ **Collaboration with** physician assistants

24 A. ~~Supervision of a physician assistant~~ **Collaboration with a PA** shall be
 25 continuous but shall not be construed as necessarily requiring the physical presence
 26 of the ~~supervising~~ physician at the time and place that the services are rendered. **The**
 27 **method of collaboration shall be defined by the practice site, the terms of the**
 28 **collaborative practice agreement, and the acuity of the patient.**

29 B. It is the obligation and responsibility of each ~~supervising~~ **collaborating**

1 physician and ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** to ensure:

2 (1) That the ~~physician assistant's~~ **PA's** scope of practice is identified.

3 (2) That ~~delegation of medical tasks and~~ **the scope and** authority is
4 appropriate to the ~~physician assistant's~~ **PA's** level of **education, experience, and**
5 competence.

6 (3) That the relationship of, and access to, the ~~supervising~~ **collaborating**
7 physician is defined.

8 (4) That a process for evaluation of the ~~physician assistant's~~ **PA's**
9 performance is established.

10 §1360.29. ~~Supervising~~ **Collaborating** physician qualifications and registration

11 A. A physician ~~supervising~~ **collaborating with** a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA**
12 shall:

13 (1) Be licensed and in good standing in this state.

14 (2) Notify the board of his intent to ~~supervise~~ **collaborate with** a physician
15 ~~assistant~~ **PA**.

16 (3) ~~Submit a statement to the board that he will exercise supervision over the~~
17 ~~physician assistant in accordance with any rules and regulations adopted by the board~~
18 ~~and that he will retain professional and legal responsibility for the care rendered by~~
19 ~~the physician assistant.~~

20 (4)~~(3)~~ Maintain a written **collaborative practice** agreement with the
21 ~~physician assistant in compliance with R.S. 37:1360.22(8) that includes a statement~~
22 ~~that the physician shall exercise supervision over the physician assistant in~~
23 ~~accordance with this Part~~ **PA**. The agreement shall be signed by the ~~supervising~~
24 **collaborating** physician and ~~physician assistant~~ **PA**, updated annually, kept on file
25 at the practice site, and **be** available to the board upon request.

26 B. Physicians seeking to ~~supervise a physician assistant~~ **collaborate with a**
27 **PA** shall be required to appear before the board upon their first application and
28 notification to the board of their intention to ~~supervise a physician assistant~~
29 **collaborate with a PA** when the board finds discrepancies in the physician's

1 application or when the physician is currently or has been previously subject to
2 adverse licensure, certification, or registration actions.

3 §1360.30. Notification of intent to practice

4 A. A ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** licensed in this state, prior to initiating practice,
5 shall submit, on forms approved by the board, notification of such intent to practice.

6 Such notification shall include:

7 (1) The name, business address, and telephone number of the ~~supervising~~
8 **collaborating** physician.

9 (2) The name, business address, and telephone number of the ~~physician~~
10 **assistant PA**.

11 B. A ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** shall notify the board of any changes in or
12 additions to his ~~supervising~~ **collaborating** physicians within fifteen days of the date
13 of such change or addition.

14 §1360.31. Services performed by physician assistants

15 A.(1) A ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** performs medical services ~~when such services~~
16 ~~are rendered under the supervision of a supervising~~ **in collaboration with a**
17 **physician or physicians that are within the scope of the PA's education, training,**
18 **and competence. These services shall be in accordance with a written**
19 **collaborative practice agreement and may include but are not limited to**
20 **eliciting patient histories, performing physical examinations, ordering and**
21 **interpreting diagnostic tests, exercising prescriptive authority, making**
22 **appropriate referrals, performing clinical procedures, and assisting in surgery.**

23 A physician assistant may perform those duties and responsibilities that are delegated
24 to him by his supervising physician. A physician assistant is considered to be and is
25 ~~deemed the agent of his supervising physician in the performance of all~~
26 ~~practice-related activities, including but not limited to assisting in surgery and the~~
27 ~~ordering and interpretation of diagnostic and other medical services. The level and~~
28 ~~method of supervision~~ **collaboration** shall be at the physician and physician assistant
29 ~~level,~~ **determined at the practice site by the terms of the collaborative practice**

1 agreement, shall be documented and reviewed annually, and shall reflect the acuity
2 of the patient care and the nature of a procedure. A ~~physician assistant~~ PA shall not
3 practice without ~~supervision~~ collaboration except in life-threatening emergencies,
4 ~~and~~ in emergency situations such as man-made and natural disaster relief efforts or
5 during a declared state of emergency.

6 (2) A ~~physician assistant~~ PA may inject local anesthetic agents
7 subcutaneously, including digital blocks or apply topical anesthetic agents ~~when~~
8 ~~delegated to do so by a supervising physician~~. However, nothing in this Part shall
9 otherwise permit a ~~physician assistant~~ PA to administer local anesthetics
10 perineurally, pericurally, epidurally, intrathecally, or intravenously unless ~~such~~
11 ~~physician assistant~~ the PA is a certified registered nurse anesthetist and meets the
12 requirements in R.S. 37:930.

13 B. The practice of a ~~physician assistant~~ PA shall include the performance of
14 medical services within the scope of his education, training, and experience, ~~which~~
15 ~~are delegated by the supervising physician~~ as defined in the collaborative practice
16 agreement.

17 C.(1) A ~~physician assistant~~ PA may prescribe, order, and administer drugs
18 ~~to the extent delegated by the supervising physician~~ in accordance with the
19 collaborative practice agreement except as provided pursuant to R.S. 37:930
20 relative to anesthetics. Drugs which may be prescribed, ordered, and administered
21 by a ~~physician assistant~~ PA or a health care professional licensed pursuant to Chapter
22 12 of this Title are those listed in Schedules II, III, IV, and V of R.S. 40:964 and
23 legend drugs, which are defined as any drug or drug product bearing on the label of
24 the manufacturer or distributor, as required by the Food and Drug Administration,
25 the statement "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a prescription". A
26 ~~physician assistant~~ PA authorized to prescribe controlled substances shall register
27 with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

28 (2)(a) A ~~physician assistant~~ PA shall meet all of the following qualifications
29 to be eligible to apply for prescriptive authority:

1 (i) Have completed a minimum of five hundred clinical training hours prior
2 to graduation from an approved ~~physician assistant~~ PA educational program.

3 (ii) Hold a current license issued by the Louisiana State Board of Medical
4 Examiners.

5 (iii) Be authorized to prescribe ~~as delegated by the supervising physician~~ in
6 accordance with the collaborative practice agreement.

7 (iv) Apply for a controlled dangerous substance license from the Louisiana
8 Board of Pharmacy and register with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency,
9 if ~~delegated~~ authority to prescribe Schedule II, III, IV, or V drugs ~~by the supervising~~
10 physician is included in the collaborative practice agreement.

11 (b) The board shall not impose any qualifications for a ~~physician assistant's~~
12 PA's prescriptive authority, in addition to those set forth in this Paragraph, through
13 administrative rulemaking.

14 (3) A ~~physician assistant~~ PA may request, receive, and sign for sample drugs
15 and may distribute sample drugs to a patient.

16 * * *

17 E. A PA who performs medical services authorized by this Section in
18 collaboration with a physician or physicians as defined by the collaborative
19 practice agreement may directly bill and be directly reimbursed for services.

20 §1360.32. Assumption of professional liability

21 ~~When a physician assistant is supervised by a physician or group practice of~~
22 ~~physicians or a professional medical corporation or a hospital or other health care~~
23 ~~organization or entity, the physician assistant shall be supervised by and be the legal~~
24 ~~responsibility of the supervising physician or group practice or professional medical~~
25 ~~corporation or other hospital or other health care organization or entity and the~~
26 ~~supervising physician. The legal responsibility legal responsibility for the physician~~
27 ~~assistant's~~ PA is legally responsible for his patient care activities, including care and
28 treatment that is provided in health care facilities, ~~shall remain that of the supervising~~
29 ~~physician, group practice of physicians, or a professional medical corporation, or a~~

1 hospital or other health care organization or entity.

2 §1360.33. Violations

3 The board may, exercising due process, discipline any ~~physician assistant~~
4 **PA**, as provided in R.S. 37:1360.34, who:

5 * * *

6 (5) Is a habitual user of intoxicants or drugs to such an extent that he is
7 unable to safely perform as a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA**.

8 (6) Has been adjudicated as mentally incompetent or has a mental condition
9 that renders him unable to safely perform as a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA**.

10 * * *

11 §1360.34. Disciplinary authority

12 The board, upon finding that a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** has committed any
13 offense described in R.S. 37:1360.33, may:

14 * * *

15 (4) Require a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** to submit to the care, counseling, or
16 treatment of a physician or physicians designated by the board.

17 (5) Place the ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** on probation with the right to vacate the
18 probationary order for noncompliance.

19 * * *

20 §1360.35. Title and practice protection

21 A. Any person not licensed under this Part is guilty of a misdemeanor and is
22 subject to penalties applicable to the unlicensed practice of medicine if he:

23 (1) Holds himself out as a **PA**.

24 (2) Uses any combination or abbreviation of the term "physician assistant"
25 to indicate that he is a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA**.

26 (3) Acts as a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** without being licensed by the board.

27 B. An unlicensed physician shall not be permitted to use the title of
28 "physician assistant" **or "PA"** or to practice as a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** unless he
29 fulfills the requirements of this Part.

1 C. Only a ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** licensed under this Part who has met the
 2 current certification requirements of the National Commission on the Certification
 3 of Physicians' Assistants and its successors shall be entitled to use the designation
 4 "PA-C" before or after his name or as any title, thereof.

5 §1360.36. Identification requirements

6 A ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** licensed under this Part shall keep his license
 7 available for inspection at his primary place of employment and shall, when engaged
 8 in his professional activities, wear a name tag identifying himself as a "~~physician~~
 9 ~~assistant~~ **PA**".

10 * * *

11 §1360.38. Exemptions

12 A. The provisions of this Part shall not apply to:

13 (1) Practitioners of allied health fields duly licensed in accordance with other
 14 laws of this state.

15 (2) A ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** administering medical services in cases of
 16 emergency.

17 (3) A ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** student enrolled in a physician assistant
 18 educational program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on
 19 Education for the ~~physician assistant~~ **PA**.

20 (4) A ~~physician assistant~~ **PA** employed by the federal government while
 21 performing duties incidental to that employment.

22 * * *

23 Section 2. R.S. 37:1360.24(C) and (D) are hereby repealed.

The original instrument was prepared by Thomas L. Tyler. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Brandi Cannon.

DIGEST

SB 158 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session Luneau

Present law provides for physician assistants which proposed law refers to as PA's.

Present law provides for supervision of physician assistants by a physician and who is responsible for direction and control and who assumes liability for services rendered by a

physician assistant. Provides that the physical presence of the supervising physician is not required but requires there be the capability of the supervising physician to be in contact by either telephone or other telecommunications device. Provides that supervision exists when the supervising physician responsible for the patient gives informed concurrence of the action of a physician assistant and when a medical treatment plan or action is made in accordance with written clinical practice guidelines or protocols set forth by the supervising physician. Requires that the level and method of supervision be at the physician and physician assistant level, be documented and reviewed annually, and reflect the acuity of the patient care and nature of the procedure.

Proposed law defines the relationship between a physician and the PA as a collaboration or cooperative working relationship with one or more collaborating physicians to jointly contribute to providing patient care which may include discussion of a patient's diagnosis and cooperation in the management and delivery of health care with each provider performing those activities within the provider's scope of the practice.

Present law provides that a physician, approved by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners as a supervising physician, practicing in a private practice, group practice, partnership, professional medical corporation, or employed by a hospital or other health care organization or entity may be the primary supervising physician for up to eight physician assistants.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that PAs may be employed by a group practice or partnership of physicians, a professional medical corporation, or a hospital or other health care organization or entity.

Proposed law requires that medical services performed by a PA be in accordance with a written collaborative practice agreement which may include eliciting patient histories, performing physical examinations, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests, exercising prescriptive authority, making appropriate referrals, performing clinical procedures, and assisting in surgery. Further provides that it is the obligation and responsibility of each collaborating physician and PA to ensure that the scope and authority of practice is appropriate to the PA's level of education, experience, and competence.

Proposed law provides that a PA shall enroll in the Patient's Compensation Fund upon licensure and continue to fulfill all of the requirements for enrollment in the fund as a condition of licensure.

Proposed law provides that a PA performing medical services as defined by the collaborative practice agreement may directly bill and be directly reimbursed for services.

Present law provides that a PA's legal responsibility remains with the supervising physician, group of physicians, professional medical corporation, hospital, or other health care organization or entity.

Proposed law requires the PA be legally responsible for his patient care activities, including care and treatment that is provided in health care facilities, group practice of physicians, professional medical corporation, hospital, or other health care organization or entity.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 37:1360.21, 1360.22(1), (5), (7), (8), and (9), 1360.23, 1360.24(A)(intro para), 1360.24(A)(3), (4), and (5), (B), 1360.26, 1360.27, 1360.28, 1360.29, 1360.30, 1360.31(A), (B), (C)(1), (2), and (3), 1360.32, 1360.33(intro para), 1360.33(5) and (6), 1360.34(intro para), 1360.34(4) and (5), 1360.35, 1360.36, and 1360.38(A); adds R.S. 37:1360.22(10), 1360.24(A)(9), 1360.25, and 1360.31(E); repeals R.S. 1360.24(C) and (D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to
the original bill

1. Defines collaborative practice agreement.
2. Requires enrollment in the Patient's Compensation Fund.
3. Makes technical changes.