

## BILL ANALYSIS

	<b><u>DATE:</u></b>	05/29/2007
<b><u>COMMITTEE:</u></b>	Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure	<b><u>BILL NO.:</u></b> HB 1999
<b><u>PRIME SPONSOR:</u></b>	Rep. Seip	<b><u>PRINTER NO.</u></b> 3224

House Bill 1999 amends the Medical Practice Act, to expand the scope of practice for the physician assistant. It is a companion bill to House Bill 2051.

House Bill 1999 expands the scope of practice for physician assistants to perform the following tasks:  
Order durable medical equipment.

Issue oral orders to the extent permitted by a health care facility's bylaws, rules, regulations or administrative policies and guidelines.

Order physical therapy and dietitian referrals.

Order respiratory and occupational therapy referrals.

Perform disability assessments for the programs providing Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

Issue homebound schooling certifications.

Perform and sign the initial assessment of methadone treatment evaluations, provided that any order for methadone treatment shall be made only by a physician.

The expansion of the scope of practice for the *physician assistants* is identical to that permitted under Act 48 of 2007 for the certified registered nurse practitioner.

The bill also requires physician assistants to maintain the same level of professional liability insurance as required for nonparticipating health care providers under MCARE (\$1 million per claim/\$3 million per annual aggregate), but provides that they are not required to purchase individual insurance if their employer maintains its MCARE required insurance.

The legislation would statutorily require the physician assistant continuing education requirements that are currently only established in regulations of the board.

The bill would take effect in 60 days.