

# Physicians Assistants Act 47

**HB 1252, PN 2288**

**Sponsor: Rep. Readshaw**

**Date Enacted: July 20, 2007**

**Summary:**

Act 47 expands access to primary care by allowing Physicians to increase the number of Physicians Assistants with whom they can establish collaborative agreements.

**Prior Law:**

Under section 10(g) of the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act of October 5, 1978 (P.L. 1109, No. 261), a physician could not have primary responsibility for more than two physician assistants under a collaborative or written agreement.

**Analysis:**

Act 47 amends the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act to allow physicians to supervise four physician assistants under a collaborative or written agreement instead of two. It also permits physicians to apply to the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine for a waiver to supervise more than four, and provides that physician assistants should be responsible to the attending physician for a particular patient.

**Impact:**

By increasing the number of physician assistants that can be supervised by a physician, more patients can be treated in a shorter amount of time. This takes pressure off the physicians, while allowing physician assistants to practice to the full extent of their training. As part of the package of scope of practice bills under Governor Rendell's Prescription for Pennsylvania, this will increase the overall efficiency of the healthcare system. Studies show that adding a physician assistant to a medical practice can double the number of patients seen, while maintaining the same level of quality of care.

**Effective Date: 60 days from enactment**