

SB 285 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/27/2025 1374s

2025 SESSION

25-1075

09/05

SENATE BILL **285**

AN ACT relative to changing the term "physician assistant" to "physician associate."

SPONSORS: Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1; Sen. Long, Dist 20; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Rep. Schmidt, Straf. 14; Rep. Edwards, Rock. 31; Rep. Layon, Rock. 13

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

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ANALYSIS

This bill updates the laws to reflect the title change of "physician assistant" to "physician associate" but makes clear that no substantive change to any law is being made by this update.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT                    relative to changing the term "physician assistant" to "physician associate."

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1 Title Change; Physician Associate. Amend the following RSAs by replacing "physician  
2 assistant" with "physician associate": 5-C:1, III; 5-C:1, V; 5-C:1, XXIX-a, 5-C:62, I; 5-C:62, II(e); 5-  
3 C:62, III(c); 5-C:62, III(e); 5-C:62, IV(d); the introductory paragraph of 5-C:62, V; 5-C:62, V(a); 5-  
4 C:62, VI; 5-C:63, I; 5-C:63, IV and V; 5-C:63, VIII; 5-C:64, II and III; 5-C:64, IV(a) through (c); 5-C:64,  
5 VI and VII; 5-C:64, XI through XV; 5-C:66, I and II; 5-C:74, I; 5-C:80, III and IV; 5-C:81, II; 5-C:94, II  
6 through IV; 5-C:96, I(b); 126-AA:2, III(d)(1) and (3); 126-A:3, III-a(a); 126-A:89, VIII; the introductory  
7 paragraph of 126-A:101, I; 126-X:1, VII(a)(3) and (4); the introductory paragraph of 135:21-b; 135:21-  
8 b, I; 135-C:2, XII-a; 135-C:36, I(c); 135-C:36, II; 137-J:2, V; 137-J:2, XXI; 137-J:33; 137-L:2, VI and  
9 VII; 141-G:2, I; 141-G:8, VIII; 141-G:10, III(a); 141-G:13, I through III; 141-G:19, II(i); 151:12-c, I;  
10 153-A:11, II; the section heading of 153-A:16; 153-A:16, I and II; 167:83, II(q); 170-E:58; 200:32;  
11 200:40-b, I(a)(3); 200-N:1, III(b); 261:88, I(c); 261:88, III; 261:88, V and VI; 290:1; 290:1-a; 313-A:31,  
12 II; 318:1, XII-a; 318:42, VII(a) and (c); the introductory paragraph of RSA 318:42, VIII; 318:47-m, I;  
13 318:47-m, III; 318:47-m, VII; the introductory paragraph of RSA 318:52-a; 318:52-c, I; 326-E:1, VII;  
14 326-E:1, X; the introductory paragraph of 326-E:8, I; 328-D:1, I; 328-D:1, II-c; 328-D:1, III; 328-D:2, I  
15 through III; the introductory paragraph of 328-D:3, I; 328-D:3-b, I(a) and (b); 328-D:3-b, II(c) and (d);  
16 328-D:3-b, IV; 328-D:3-b, XIII; 328-D:3-b, XVII through XIX; 328-D:10, I(j); 328-D:12; 328-D:13, I and  
17 II; 328-D:14; 328-D:15, I through III; 328-D:16, I and II; 328-D:17, I through III; 329:1-c; 329:1-d, III;  
18 the introductory paragraph of 329:1-g; 329:13-b, I; 329:13-b, IV(a); 328:13-b, VI; 322-I:1, II(b); 332-  
19 L:2, I; the introductory paragraph of 415:18-a, III(a); 415:18-a, IV(b)(9); 415:18-a, V(j); and 464-A:25;  
20 I(a)(2) and (6).

21            2 Title Change; Physician Associates. Amend the following RSAs by replacing "physician  
22 assistants" with "physician associates": 137-J:2, V; 141-F:2, IV-b; 153-A:20, XII; 167:4-d, III(f)(1);  
23 294-A:1, VI; 304-A:2, IX; 310:7, VI; 313-A:25, I; 318:8-a; 318:42, II; 318-B:41, I(a)(1); the chapter  
24 heading for 328-D; 328-D:2-a, I through III; 328-D:3, I(a); 328-D:3-b, I(a); the introductory paragraph  
25 of 328-D:3-b, VII; 328-D:3-b, VIII through XIII; 328-D:3-b, XV through XVII; 328-D:3-b, XIX and XX;  
26 328-D:17, I; 328-D:18; 329:2, I; 329:3; 329:9; XIV; 329:13-b, V(a); 329:21, XIII; 415:18-a, I(a)(9);  
27 415:18-a, III(a)(9); 415-J:3, XII(a); and 516:29-c, VI(a).

28            3 Title Change; Physician Associate's. Amend the following RSAs by replacing "physician  
29 assistant's" with "physician associate's": the introductory paragraph of 5-C:64, IV; 5-C:64, VI; 5-C:64,  
30 XI; 5-C:94, V; the introductory paragraph of 135:21-b; 328-D:1, II-a; 328-D:3-b, I(b); 328-D:3-b, II(a)  
31 and (b); 328-D:3-b, XX; 328-D:15, I; and 329:13-b, VI.

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1       4 Title Change; Physician Associates'. Amend the following RSA by replacing "physician  
2 assistants" with "physician associates": 318:14.

3       5 Title Change; Physician Associate. Amend the following RSAs by replacing "physician's  
4 assistant" with "physician associate": 106-L:6, VII; 214:20-I; 265-A:5, I; the introductory paragraph of  
5 265-A:16; 328-G:9, II(e)(1); 507-C:1, II; 507-E:1, II; 508:18, I; and 623:1, I.

6       6 Title Change; Physician Associates'. Amend the following RSA by replacing "physician's  
7 assistants" with "physician associates": the introductory paragraph of 326-D:2, V.

8       7 Title Change; January 1, 2027. Amend the following RSA by replacing "physician assistant"  
9 with "physician associate": 328-D:3-b, I.

10       8 Title Change; January 1, 2027. Amend the following RSA by replacing "physician assistants"  
11 with "physician associates": 328-D:3-b, I.

12       9 Physician Associate; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-D:10, I(m) to read as follows:

13               (m) Continuing medical education ("CME") requirements for those physician [~~assistants~~]  
14 **associates** that have received their National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants  
15 ("NCCPA") certification, but have chosen not to maintain their certification.

16       10 New Section; Physician Associates; Applicability of Name Change. Amend RSA 328:D by  
17 inserting after section 18 the following new section:

18       328-D:19 Effect of Name Change From Physician Assistant to Physician Associate.

19               I. As of the effective date of this section, the title of "physician assistant" in New Hampshire  
20 is changed to "physician associate." This change is not intended to change any rights or privileges of  
21 those who have been or continue to hold themselves out to be a "physician assistant" and anywhere  
22 in the law that says, "physician associate" shall also mean "physician assistant."

23               II. This name change shall not alter, affect, or impact any billing, reimbursement, or  
24 payment policies currently in place for physician assistants. All billing practices, insurance  
25 reimbursement policies, and agreements that apply to physician assistants shall continue to apply in  
26 the same manner to physician associates. No insurer shall deny reimbursement for services  
27 rendered by a physician associate solely as a result of this name change.

28               III. No regulatory changes shall be made solely as a result of this name change that would  
29 modify the scope of practice or any other professional obligations currently applicable to physician  
30 assistants.

31       11 Effective Date.

32               I. Sections 7 and 8 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

33               II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.