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**HOUSE BILL NO. 746**

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-2952.01, relating to physician assistants; authorization to practice without a practice agreement.*

Patrons—Henson and Schmidt

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-2952.01 as follows:****§ 54.1-2952.01. Physician assistants; authorization to practice without a practice agreement.****A. For the purposes of this section:**

*"Clinical experience" means the postgraduate delivery of health care directly to patients pursuant to a practice agreement with a patient care team physician.*

*"Full-time clinical experience" means 1,800 hours per year of clinical experience.*

*B. A physician assistant who has completed the equivalent of at least three years of full-time clinical experience, as determined by the Board, may practice medicine to the extent and in the manner authorized by the Board without a written or electronic practice agreement upon receipt by the physician assistant of an attestation from the patient care team physician or patient care team podiatrist who provided collaboration and consultation to the physician assistant on a patient care team pursuant to subsection A of § 54.1-2952 stating:*

*1. That the patient care team physician or patient care team podiatrist has served as a patient care team physician or patient care team podiatrist, respectively, on a patient care team with the physician assistant pursuant to a practice agreement meeting the requirements of §§ 54.1-2952 and 54.1-2952.1;*

*2. That while a party to such practice agreement, the patient care team physician or patient care team podiatrist routinely practiced with a patient population and in a practice area included within the physician assistant's scope of practice; and*

*3. The period of time for which the patient care team physician or patient care team podiatrist practiced with the physician assistant under such a practice agreement.*

*C. A copy of the attestation required pursuant to subsection B shall be submitted to the Board together with a fee established by the Board. A physician assistant may submit attestations from more than one patient care team physician with whom the physician assistant practiced during the equivalent of three years of full-time clinical experience required pursuant to subsection B provided that all attestations are submitted to the Board at the same time. Upon receipt of such attestation or attestations and verification that a physician assistant satisfies the requirements of this section, the Board shall issue to the physician assistant a new license that includes a designation indicating that the physician assistant is authorized to practice without a practice agreement.*

*D. In the event that a physician assistant is unable to obtain the attestation required by subsection B, such physician assistant may submit other evidence of meeting the qualifications to practice without a practice agreement along with an attestation signed by the physician assistant. Other evidence may include employment records, military service, Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement records, or other similar records that verify full-time clinical practice in the role of a physician assistant in the category for which the physician assistant is licensed and certified. The burden shall be on the physician assistant to provide sufficient evidence to support the physician assistant's inability to obtain an attestation required pursuant to subsection B.*

*E. A physician assistant who obtains licensure by endorsement pursuant to § 54.1-2951.1 may engage in practice without a practice agreement pursuant to the requirements of this section if their application for licensure by endorsement includes an attestation acceptable to the Board that the physician assistant has completed the equivalent of three years of full-time clinical experience as required pursuant to this section and in accordance with the laws of the state in which the physician assistant was previously licensed.*

*F. A physician assistant authorized to practice without a practice agreement pursuant to this section shall:*

*1. Practice (i) within the scope of the physician assistant's clinical and professional training, (ii) within the limits of the physician assistant's knowledge and experience, and (iii) in a manner consistent with the applicable standards of care;*

*2. Consult and collaborate with other health care providers based on the clinical conditions of the patient to whom health care is provided; and*

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59       3. *Establish a plan for referral of complex medical cases and emergencies to physicians or other*  
60       *appropriate health care providers.*