

## Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council

Meeting Minutes: June 29, 2022

### Introduction

Chair, Meaghan Carver, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members of the Council to the second meeting regarding SB 643.

- Meaghan Carver gave a brief recap of the first meeting.

Meaghan Carver asked for any proposed changes to the minutes for meeting one. No changes were proposed. Sen. Ben Watson motioned to approve the minutes and Rep. Sharon Cooper seconded the motion. The minutes of meeting one was approved unanimously.

### Senate Bill 643

Meaghan Carver asked if there were any follow-up questions from the first meeting that needed to be addressed. No members of the council had any follow-up questions.

Jet Toney from the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists (GSA) gave brief remarks about SB 643

- The Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists is comprised of over 1,300 members. There are over 800 physician anesthesiologists and 350 certified anesthesiologist assistants.
- Jet Toney mentioned Bill Buntin's testimony from the first meeting regarding the need for more transparency. Searches through the Georgia Composite Medical Board's website for licensed AAs come up as PAs.
- The standard of care specifications that are mentioned in the bill along with future pushes by nurse practitioners and physician assistants for greater autonomy with regards to anesthesia are some reasons for supporting the passage of SB 643 according to Jet Toney.

Richard Evans, the director of state affairs, from the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) gave brief remarks regarding SB 643

- Transparency and being able to know who can practice as an AA is a key goal for the AAAA.
- There has been one disciplinary action taken in Florida against an AA, Richard Evans suspects that this low number will be similar here in Georgia. Being able to track disciplinary actions in Georgia is another goal for the AAAA.
- This is a growing profession as Utah has just been added as a licensing state and Pennsylvania has just been added as a delegatory state. The AAAA expects more states to follow-suit in the coming years.

Meaghan Carver asked about what is driving the high number of AAs in Georgia when compared to other jurisdictions.

- Richard Evans pointed to the fact that Emory University is where the profession began, and many students tend to stay near where they were educated.

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler noted that the two-year AA program at Emory University is actually a 27-month program and that the current model in Georgia where an anesthesiologist can monitor up to four AAs at the same time is the best model.

Meaghan Carver opened the floor for discussion on the draft final report for SB 643.

- Bill Buntin mentioned that another potential finding for the report is the maintaining of the standard of care for patients alongside the finding in the draft of transparency.
- Sen. Ben Watson stated that another finding that is important for SB 643 is the ability to track the disciplinary actions taken against AAs within the Georgia Composite Medical Board. The quality of care that can be protected by this bill is the most important driving force of SB 643 for Sen. Ben Watson.

Meaghan Carver asked if any council members would be unwilling to support recommending SB 643 in the final report. No members were unwilling to support SB 643's recommendation. This vote was non-binding and only used for the purposes of drafting the final report.

Meaghan Carver discussed information for the next meeting

- July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, 1:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.
- The meeting was adjourned