



## Washington's New Physician Assistant Practice Laws to Take Effect in July

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In March of 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed [HB 2378](#), a law that brings numerous improvements to PA practice in the state of Washington.

One of the key improvements will be the termination of the current requirement for the MD-PA agreements to be approved by the Washington Medical Commission (WMC). The effort to pass this law was spearheaded by the Washington Academy of Physician Assistants (WAPA), and had broad support, including from the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA). An indication of strong support for the bill was the final vote tallies from the state House and Senate bodies: The Washington state Senate approved the bill 49-0, and The House of Representatives approved the bill 96-0.

As [described by the American Academy of PAs](#), HB 2378 includes these significant changes:

- Removes requirement that practice agreements be approved by the WMC.
- Removes requirement for WMC approval for an entity to employ or work with a PA.
- Removes WMC approval requirement for PAs to practice in remote sites.
- Increases the MD/PA ratio from 1:5 to 1:10 with the option to request a higher ratio, with the understanding that a MD may not supervise more PAs than they are adequately able to.
- All licensing and regulation of PAs will fall under the allopathic board (WMC) and removes this responsibility from the osteopathic board.

Most provisions of the bill take effect July 1, 2021. As this date approaches, MDs and other medically related agencies have expressed interest in better understanding the details of HB 2378, and what it will mean to their daily practices and interactions with PAs.

The WMC will be conducting the following events to help PAs, MDs, and other participants in the state medical system prepare for the new rules:

**Coffee with the Commission: Practicing as a WA PA**  
April 7, 2021 10:00 – 11:00 am

**Practicing as a PA in Washington**

May 5, 12 – 1:00 PM

Topics Covered:

- Overview of new PA laws and regulation
- Changes in the MD/PA supervision process
- PA ownership of a clinic

**Changes to PA Practice in Washington**

June 16, 12-1:00

Topics Covered:

- Overview of SB 2378
- Upcoming changes as a result of WMC rulemaking
- What does this mean for your practice?

The goal of these events will be to provide PAs and MDs, related medical agencies, and interested members of the general public and opportunity to learn more about the new rules, in order to properly prepare for the July 1, 2021 kick-off date and subsequent WMC rulemaking changes. Please direct questions about these events to [our Director of Quality and Engagement](#), and check the [WMC rule making web page](#) for more information. Rule making hearings and workshops will be announced via our [rules GovDelivery](#).

