In the General Assembly State of ____________

“Medical Spa Safety Act.”

Section 1. Title. This act shall be known as and may be cited as the “Medical Spa Safety Act.”

Section 2. Purpose. The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Patients are increasingly seeking cosmetic medical procedures and it is crucial that patient safety remains the top priority for providers of these services.

(b) These procedures are often done outside of a physician office and in a medical spa (“med spa”), many of which are legitimate, safe, physician-owned facilities that operate with a high standard of patient care.

(c) Lack of regulation have enabled med spas to offer cosmetic medical procedures by inadequately trained or supervised persons to an unsuspecting public.

(d) Some facilities have a physician listed as a medical director, who does not own the facility and/or is not on-site or immediately available to directly supervise non-physician providers.

(e) It is in the public interest to protect patients from harm by ensuring that med spas deliver safe medical care supervised by an on-site physician.

Section 3. Definitions.

(a) “Medical spa (med spa)” means a facility that provides cosmetic medical procedures, which may include neuromodulators, dermal fillers and non-ablative laser procedures outside of a physician’s office.

(b) “Cosmetic medical procedure” means medical procedures or treatments that are performed to alter or reshape normal structures of the body or ablate or remove living tissue solely in order to improve physical appearance.

(c) “Medical Director” means a physician who assumes the role of, or holds oneself out as, medical director at a medical spa. The medical director is:

   i. Trained in the indications for, and performance of, cosmetic medical procedures, including all medical devices or instruments that can alter or cause biologic change or damage the skin and subcutaneous tissue and;

   ii. Responsible for implementing policies and procedures to ensure quality patient care and for the delegation and supervision of cosmetic medical procedures and;

   iii. Responsible for all cosmetic medical procedures performed by physicians or non-physician providers at a medical spa and;

Model bill provided by the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA). Approved by the ASDSA Board of Directors: May 2019.
iv. Responsible for ensuring that all supervising physicians and non-physician providers to whom a cosmetic medical procedure has been delegated are properly trained in the safe and effective performance of all cosmetic medical procedures performed at the medical spa.

(d) “Physician” means an allopath or osteopath who has an active, unrestricted medical license granted under the authority of XX and practices within the state that the medical spa is located.

(e) “Delegate” means a non-physician tasked with performing a procedure as defined in Paragraph (b) by a Physician as defined in Paragraph (d).

(f) “Supervision” means a supervising physician that is both present at the site and immediately able to respond in-person as needed.

Section 4. Protecting Patients in a Medical Spa Setting

(a) A physician who performs or supervises cosmetic medical procedures by a non-physician must be trained in the indications for and performance of the cosmetic medical procedure.

i. Training by a vendor or manufacturer of any injectables and/or medical devices used during a cosmetic medical procedure is insufficient as the physician’s only educational training.

ii. ACGME or AOA approved continuing medical education, or completion of an ACGME or AOA accredited postgraduate program that includes training in the cosmetic medical procedure being performed satisfies the education requirement.

(b) The supervising physician must:

i. Develop and maintain written office protocols for each cosmetic medical procedure.

ii. Perform the initial assessment of the patient.

iii. Prepare a written treatment plan for each patient, including diagnosis, course of treatment and specifications for any device being utilized.

iv. Obtain patient consent if the procedure is being done by a non-physician provider and identify credentials and name of the non-physician provider who will be performing the medical procedure.
v. Create and maintain medical records in a manner consistent with accepted medical practice and in compliance with the rules of the State of XX.

(c) Non-physician providers may only perform cosmetic medical procedures in which they have been properly trained and if the procedure has been delegated to them by a supervising physician. All non-physician providers must:

i. Wear identification that clearly communicates they are not physicians and identifies the type of provider they are and their licensing.

ii. Review and follow written protocols for each delegated cosmetic medical procedure;

iii. Verify that the supervising physician has assessed the patient and given written treatment instructions for each procedure to be performed;

iv. Review the cosmetic medical procedure to be performed with each patient;

v. Notify the medical director and supervising physician of any adverse events or complications before the patient leaves the medical spa or as they become aware; and follow-up communications with the patient post-operatively;

vi. Document all relevant details of the cosmetic medical procedure in each patient’s medical record; and

vii. Satisfy any requirements imposed by the licensing board of the non-physician.

Drafting note - RE: Protecting Patients in a Medical Spa Setting: This section should not be interpreted to expand existing statute or regulation regarding the scope of practice of non-physician providers.

States may choose to require medical spas to post if a physician is not on-site and mandate adverse event reporting to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. States may also require reporting to a physician organization’s adverse event database, such as the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association’s CAPER (coming in 2020).

Section 5. Effective. This Act shall become effective immediately upon being enacted into law.