

SSB 6439 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Health Care & Wellness

ADOPTED 03/04/2008

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 18.84.010 and 1991 c 222 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 It is the intent and purpose of this chapter to protect the public
6 by the certification and registration of practitioners of radiological
7 technology. By promoting high standards of professional performance,
8 by requiring professional accountability, and by credentialing those
9 persons who seek to provide radiological technology under the title of
10 (~~radiological~~) radiologic technologists, and by regulating all
11 persons utilizing ionizing radiation on human beings this chapter
12 identifies those practitioners who have achieved a particular level of
13 competency. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require that
14 individual or group policies or contracts of an insurance carrier,
15 health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization
16 provide benefits or coverage for services and supplies provided by a
17 person certified under this chapter.

18 The legislature finds and declares that this chapter conforms to
19 the guidelines, terms, and definitions for the credentialing of health
20 or health-related professions specified under chapter 18.120 RCW.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.84.020 and 2000 c 93 s 42 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 (~~Unless the context clearly requires otherwise,~~) The definitions
24 in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context
25 clearly requires otherwise.

26 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

27 (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

28 (3) "Licensed practitioner" means any licensed health care

1 practitioner performing services within the person's authorized scope
2 of practice.

3 (4) "Radiologic technologist" means an individual certified under
4 this chapter, other than a licensed practitioner, who practices
5 radiologic technology as a:

6 (a) Diagnostic radiologic technologist, who is a person who
7 actually handles X-ray equipment in the process of applying radiation
8 on a human being for diagnostic purposes at the direction of a licensed
9 practitioner, this includes parenteral procedures related to radiologic
10 technology when performed under the direct supervision of a physician
11 licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW; ~~(($\text{\textcircled{e}}$))~~

12 (b) Therapeutic radiologic technologist, who is a person who uses
13 radiation-generating equipment for therapeutic purposes on human
14 subjects at the direction of a licensed practitioner, this includes
15 parenteral procedures related to radiologic technology when performed
16 under the direct supervision of a physician licensed under chapter
17 18.71 or 18.57 RCW; ~~(($\text{\textcircled{e}}$))~~

18 (c) Nuclear medicine technologist, who is a person who prepares
19 radiopharmaceuticals and administers them to human beings for
20 diagnostic and therapeutic purposes and who performs in vivo and in
21 vitro detection and measurement of radioactivity for medical purposes
22 at the direction of a licensed practitioner; or

23 (d) Radiologist assistant, who is an advanced-level certified
24 diagnostic radiologic technologist who assists radiologists by
25 performing advanced diagnostic imaging procedures as determined by rule
26 under levels of supervision defined by the secretary, this includes but
27 is not limited to enteral and parenteral procedures when performed
28 under the direction of the supervising radiologist, and that these
29 procedures may include injecting diagnostic agents to sites other than
30 intravenous, performing diagnostic aspirations and localizations, and
31 assisting radiologists with other invasive procedures.

32 (5) "Approved school of radiologic technology" means a school of
33 radiologic technology or radiologist assistant program approved by the
34 ~~((council on medical education of the American medical association))~~
35 secretary or a school found to maintain the equivalent of such a course
36 of study as determined by the department. Such school may be operated
37 by a medical or educational institution, and for the purpose of

1 providing the requisite clinical experience, shall be affiliated with
2 one or more general hospitals.

3 (6) "Approved radiologist assistant program" means a school
4 approved by the secretary. The secretary may recognize other
5 organizations that establish standards for radiologist assistant
6 programs and designate schools that meet the organization's standards
7 as approved.

8 (7) "Radiologic technology" means the use of ionizing radiation
9 upon a human being for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

10 ((+7)) (8) "Radiologist" means a physician certified by the
11 American board of radiology or the American osteopathic board of
12 radiology.

13 ((+8)) (9) "Registered X-ray technician" means a person who is
14 registered with the department, and who applies ionizing radiation at
15 the direction of a licensed practitioner and who does not perform
16 parenteral procedures.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.84.030 and 1991 c 222 s 3 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 No person may practice radiologic technology without being
20 registered or certified under this chapter, unless that person is a
21 licensed practitioner as defined in RCW 18.84.020(3). A person
22 represents himself or herself to the public as a certified
23 ((~~radiological~~)) radiologic technologist when that person adopts or
24 uses a title or description of services that incorporates one or more
25 of the following items or designations:

26 (1) Certified radiologic technologist or CRT, for persons so
27 certified under this chapter;

28 (2) Certified radiologic therapy technologist, CRTT, or CRT, for
29 persons certified in the therapeutic field;

30 (3) Certified radiologic diagnostic technologist, CRDT, or CRT, for
31 persons certified in the diagnostic field; ((+))

32 (4) Certified nuclear medicine technologist, CNMT, or CRT, for
33 persons certified as nuclear medicine technologists; or

34 (5) Certified radiologist assistant or CRA for persons certified as
35 radiologist assistants.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.84.040 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 506 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) In addition to any other authority provided by law, the
4 secretary may:

5 (a) Adopt rules, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, necessary to
6 implement this chapter;

7 (b) Set all registration, certification, and renewal fees in
8 accordance with RCW 43.70.250;

9 (c) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this
10 chapter;

11 (d) Evaluate and designate those schools from which graduation will
12 be accepted as proof of an applicant's eligibility to receive a
13 certificate;

14 (e) Determine whether alternative methods of training are
15 equivalent to formal education, and to establish forms, procedures, and
16 criteria for evaluation of an applicant's alternative training to
17 determine the applicant's eligibility to receive a certificate;

18 (f) Issue a certificate to any applicant who has met the education,
19 training, examination, and conduct requirements for certification; and

20 (g) Issue a registration to an applicant who meets the requirement
21 for a registration.

22 (2) The secretary may hire clerical, administrative, and
23 investigative staff as needed to implement this chapter.

24 (3) The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs the
25 issuance and denial of registrations and certifications, unregistered
26 and uncertified practice, and the discipline of registrants and
27 certificants under this chapter. The secretary is the disciplining
28 authority under this chapter.

29 (4) The secretary may appoint ad hoc members of the profession to
30 serve in an ad hoc advisory capacity to the secretary in carrying out
31 this chapter. The members will serve for designated times and provide
32 advice on matters specifically identified and requested by the
33 secretary. The members shall be compensated in accordance with RCW
34 43.03.220 and reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.040 and
35 43.03.060.

36 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.84.080 and 1991 c 3 s 209 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

1 (1) The secretary shall issue a certificate to any applicant who
2 demonstrates to the secretary's satisfaction, that the following
3 requirements have been met to practice as:

4 (a) A diagnostic radiologic technologist, therapeutic radiologic
5 technologist, or nuclear medicine technologist:

6 (i) Graduation from an approved school or successful completion of
7 alternate training that meets the criteria established by the
8 secretary; (~~and~~

9 ~~b))~~ (ii) Satisfactory completion of a radiologic technologist
10 examination approved by the secretary; and

11 (iii) Good moral character; or

12 (b) A radiologist assistant:

13 (i) Satisfactory completion of an approved radiologist assistant
14 program;

15 (ii) Satisfactory completion of a radiologist assistant examination
16 approved by the secretary; and

17 (iii) Good moral character.

18 (2) Applicants shall be subject to the grounds for denial or
19 issuance of a conditional license under chapter 18.130 RCW.

20 (3) The secretary shall establish by rule what constitutes adequate
21 proof of meeting the requirements for certification and for designation
22 of certification in a particular field of radiologic technology.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 18.84 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 It is unprofessional conduct under chapter 18.130 RCW for any
26 person registered or certified under this chapter to interpret images,
27 make diagnoses, prescribe medications or therapies, or perform other
28 procedures that may be prohibited by rule."

29 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes the requirement that radiologist assistant
programs be recognized by the American Registry of Radiologic
Technologists and authorizes the Secretary to recognize other
organizations that establish standards for radiologist assistant
programs.

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