
SENATE BILL 6439

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Spanel and Berkey

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to radiologist assistants; amending RCW 18.84.010,
2 18.84.020, 18.84.030, 18.84.040, and 18.84.080; and adding new sections
3 to chapter 18.84 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.84.010 and 1991 c 222 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

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

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

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

6 (~~Unless the context clearly requires otherwise,~~) The definitions
7 in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context
8 clearly requires otherwise.

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

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

11 (3) "Licensed practitioner" means any licensed health care
12 practitioner performing services within the person's authorized scope
13 of practice.

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

17 (a) Diagnostic radiologic technologist, who is a person who
18 actually handles X-ray equipment in the process of applying radiation
19 on a human being for diagnostic purposes at the direction of a licensed
20 practitioner, this includes parenteral procedures related to radiologic
21 technology when performed under the direct supervision of a physician
22 licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW; (~~or~~)

23 (b) Therapeutic radiologic technologist, who is a person who uses
24 radiation-generating equipment for therapeutic purposes on human
25 subjects at the direction of a licensed practitioner, this includes
26 parenteral procedures related to radiologic technology when performed
27 under the direct supervision of a physician licensed under chapter
28 18.71 or 18.57 RCW; (~~or~~)

29 (c) Nuclear medicine technologist, who is a person who prepares
30 radiopharmaceuticals and administers them to human beings for
31 diagnostic and therapeutic purposes and who performs in vivo and in
32 vitro detection and measurement of radioactivity for medical purposes
33 at the direction of a licensed practitioner; or

34 (d) Radiologist assistant, who is an advanced-level certified
35 diagnostic radiologic technologist who practices under levels of
36 supervision defined by the secretary, and:

1 (i) Enhances patient care by assisting the radiologist in the
2 diagnostic imaging environment;

3 (ii) Performs advanced diagnostic procedures including injecting
4 agents that facilitate or enable diagnostic imaging, performs selected
5 diagnostic aspirations and needle localizations for biopsy under
6 radiologist direction and supervision, performs fluoroscopy, and
7 placing nasoenteric and oroenteric feeding tubes in uncomplicated
8 patients;

9 (iii) Monitors and tailors selected examinations;

10 (iv) Communicates preliminary observations to a radiologist and
11 communicates final radiologist reports to referring health care
12 providers when directed;

13 (v) Performs selected peripheral venous diagnostic procedures; and

14 (vi) Assists radiologists with invasive procedures and performs
15 additional procedures under radiologist direction and supervision.

16 (5) "Approved school of radiologic technology" means a school of
17 radiologic technology or radiologist assistant program approved by the
18 council on medical education of the American medical association or the
19 American registry of radiologic technologists or a school found to
20 maintain the equivalent of such a course of study as determined by the
21 department. Such school may be operated by a medical or educational
22 institution, and for the purpose of providing the requisite clinical
23 experience, shall be affiliated with one or more general hospitals.

24 (6) "Radiologic technology" means the use of ionizing radiation
25 upon a human being for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

26 (7) "Radiologist" means a physician certified by the American board
27 of radiology or the American osteopathic board of radiology.

28 (8) "Registered X-ray technician" means a person who is registered
29 with the department, and who applies ionizing radiation at the
30 direction of a licensed practitioner and who does not perform
31 parenteral procedures.

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

34 No person may practice radiologic technology without being
35 registered or certified under this chapter, unless that person is a
36 licensed practitioner as defined in RCW 18.84.020(3). A person
37 represents himself or herself to the public as a certified

1 (~~radiological~~) radiologic technologist when that person adopts or
2 uses a title or description of services that incorporates one or more
3 of the following items or designations:

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

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

8 (3) Certified radiologic diagnostic technologist, CRDT, or CRT, for
9 persons certified in the diagnostic field; (~~or~~)

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

12 (5) Certified radiologist assistant or CRA for persons certified as
13 radiologist assistants.

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

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

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

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

22 (c) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this
23 chapter;

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

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

31 (f) Prepare, grade, and administer, or determine the nature of, and
32 supervise the grading and administration of examinations for obtaining
33 a certificate;

34 (g) Issue a certificate to any applicant who has met the education,
35 training, examination, preceptorship, and conduct requirements for
36 certification; and

1 (~~(g)~~) (h) Issue a registration to an applicant who meets the
2 requirement for a registration.

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

5 (3) The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs the
6 issuance and denial of registrations and certifications, unregistered
7 and uncertified practice, and the discipline of registrants and
8 certificants under this chapter. The secretary is the disciplining
9 authority under this chapter.

10 (4) The secretary may appoint ad hoc members of the profession to
11 serve in an ad hoc advisory capacity to the secretary in carrying out
12 this chapter. The members will serve for designated times and provide
13 advice on matters specifically identified and requested by the
14 secretary. The members shall be compensated in accordance with RCW
15 43.03.220 and reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.040 and
16 43.03.060.

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

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

22 (a) A diagnostic radiologic technologist, therapeutic radiologic
23 technologist, or nuclear medicine technologist:

24 (i) Graduation from an approved school or successful completion of
25 alternate training that meets the criteria established by the
26 secretary; and

27 (~~(b)~~) (ii) Good moral character; or

28 (b) A radiologist assistant:

29 (i) Satisfactory completion of a baccalaureate degree,
30 postbaccalaureate certificate, or master's degree encompassing a
31 radiologist assistant curriculum from an approved school of radiologic
32 technology;

33 (ii) Satisfactory completion of a radiologist-directed clinical
34 preceptorship; and

35 (iii) Satisfactory completion of a radiologist assistant
36 examination approved by the secretary.

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

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

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

8 (1) The date and location of radiologist assistant examinations
9 must be established by the secretary. Applicants who have been found
10 by the secretary to meet the other requirements for obtaining a
11 certificate must be scheduled for the next examination following the
12 filing of the application. The secretary shall establish by rule the
13 examination application deadline.

14 (2) The secretary or the secretary's designee shall examine each
15 applicant, by means determined most effective, on subjects appropriate
16 to the scope of practice, as applicable. The examinations must be
17 limited to the purpose of determining whether the applicant possesses
18 the minimum skill and knowledge necessary to practice competently.

19 (3) The examination papers, all grading of the papers, and the
20 grading of any practical work must be preserved for a period of not
21 less than one year after the secretary has made and published the
22 decisions. All examinations must be conducted under fair and wholly
23 impartial methods.

24 (4) Any applicant failing to make the required grade in the first
25 examination may take up to two subsequent examinations as the applicant
26 desires upon prepaying a fee determined by the secretary under RCW
27 43.70.250 for each subsequent examination. Upon failing four
28 examinations, the secretary may invalidate the original application and
29 require remedial education before the person may take future
30 examinations.

31 (5) The secretary may approve an examination prepared or
32 administered by a private testing agency or association of
33 credentialing agencies for use by an applicant in meeting the
34 credentialing requirements, including examinations prepared and
35 administered by the American registry of radiologic technologists.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 18.84 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 It is unprofessional conduct under chapter 18.130 RCW for any
4 person registered or certified under this chapter to interpret images,
5 make diagnoses, prescribe medications or therapies, or perform other
6 procedures that may be prohibited by rule.

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