
HOUSE BILL 3118

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Mitchell and Hickel

Read first time 02/06/98. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to radiologic technology; amending RCW 18.84.010
2 and 18.84.040; adding new sections to chapter 18.84 RCW; repealing RCW
3 18.84.010, 18.84.020, 18.84.030, 18.84.040, 18.84.050, 18.84.070,
4 18.84.080, 18.84.090, 18.84.100, 18.84.110, 18.84.120, 18.84.130,
5 18.84.140, 18.84.150, 18.84.160, and 18.84.170; and providing an
6 effective date.

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

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

10 It is the intent and purpose of this chapter to protect the public
11 by the ~~((certification and registration))~~ licensing of practitioners of
12 radiological technology. By promoting high standards of professional
13 performance, by requiring professional accountability, ~~((and))~~ by
14 ~~((credentialing))~~ licensing those persons who seek to provide
15 radiological technology under the title of radiological technologists,
16 and by regulating all persons utilizing ionizing radiation on human
17 beings, this chapter identifies those practitioners who have achieved
18 a particular level of competency. Nothing in this chapter shall be
19 construed to require that individual or group policies or contracts of

1 an insurance carrier, health care service contractor, or health
2 maintenance organization provide benefits or coverage for services and
3 supplies provided by a person ((certified)) licensed under this
4 chapter.

5 ~~((The legislature finds and declares that this chapter conforms to
6 the guidelines, terms, and definitions for the credentialing of health
7 or health-related professions specified under chapter 18.120 RCW.))~~

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
9 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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

11 (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's
12 designee.

13 (3) "License" means a license granted and issued by the secretary
14 to practice radiologic technology.

15 (4) "Limited license" means a limited license granted and issued by
16 the secretary to practice radiologic technology.

17 (5) "Radiation oncologist" means a person licensed under chapter
18 18.71, 18.57, 18.32, 18.25, or 18.79 RCW who is either certified or
19 eligible for certification in therapeutic radiology by the American
20 board of radiology, or its equivalent, or who is certified in general
21 radiology by the American board of radiology and devotes all
22 professional time to the investigation and management of neoplastic
23 disorders, including teaching that investigation and management.

24 (6) "Radiation therapy" means the use of ionizing radiation upon a
25 human being for therapeutic purposes.

26 (7) "Nuclear medicine" means the use of radiopharmaceuticals upon
27 a human being for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

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

30 (9) "Radiologic technologist" means a person other than a licensed
31 practitioner who practices radiologic technology as a diagnostic
32 radiologic technologist, therapeutic radiologic technologist, or
33 nuclear medicine technologist.

34 (10) "Diagnostic radiologic technologist" means a person other than
35 a licensed practitioner who actually handles X-ray equipment in the
36 process of applying ionizing radiation on a human being for a
37 diagnostic purpose at the direction of a licensed practitioner.

1 (11) "Therapeutic radiologic technologist" means a person other
2 than a licensed practitioner who actually handles ionizing radiation in
3 the process of applying radiation on a human being for therapeutic
4 purposes at the direction of a licensed practitioner.

5 (12) "Nuclear medicine technologist" means a person who prepares
6 and administers radiopharmaceuticals to human beings for diagnostic and
7 therapeutic purposes and who performs in vivo and in vitro detection
8 and measurement of radioactivity for medical purposes at the direction
9 of a licensed practitioner.

10 (13) "Limited license technician" means a person other than a
11 licensed practitioner, diagnostic radiologic technologist, therapeutic
12 radiologic technologist, or nuclear medicine technologist who handles
13 X-ray equipment in the process of applying ionizing radiation on a
14 human being for diagnostic purposes.

15 (14) "Supervision" means the act of monitoring the performance of
16 diagnostic X-ray examination through periodic inspection, regardless of
17 whether the supervising licensed practitioner is continuously present
18 during the performance of the diagnostic X-ray technology.

19 (15) "Approved school of radiologic technology" means a school of
20 radiologic technology approved by a nationally recognized council on
21 medical education or a school that, by the secretary's determination,
22 maintains an equivalent course of study. The school may be operated by
23 a medical or educational institution, for the purpose of providing the
24 requisite clinical experience, and must be affiliated with one or more
25 general hospitals.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) After the effective date of this
27 section, a person may not practice radiologic technology or purport to
28 be a radiologic technologist unless the person is licensed in
29 accordance with this chapter or holds a license issued by the
30 secretary.

31 (2) A person licensed under this chapter may use the title of
32 "licensed radiologic technologist" or the letters "LRT." A person
33 licensed as a radiologic technologist in the therapeutic field may use
34 the title of "licensed radiation therapy technologist" or the letters
35 "LRTT." A person licensed as a nuclear medicine technologist may use
36 the title of "licensed nuclear medicine technologist" or the letters
37 "LNMT." A person holding a limited license as defined in this chapter
38 may use the title "limited license technician" or the letters "LLT."

1 (3) No person may use a title or an abbreviation of a title that is
2 substantially the same as any title in subsection (2) of this section
3 unless the person is licensed under chapter . . . , Laws of 1998 (this
4 act).

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

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

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

11 (b) Set all (~~registration, certification,~~) licensing and renewal
12 fees in accordance with RCW 43.70.250;

13 (c) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this
14 chapter;

15 (d) Evaluate and designate those schools from which graduation will
16 be accepted as proof of an applicant's eligibility to receive a
17 (~~certificate~~) license;

18 (e) Determine whether alternative methods of training are
19 equivalent to formal education, and to establish forms, procedures, and
20 criteria for evaluation of an applicant's alternative training to
21 determine the applicant's eligibility to receive a (~~certificate~~)
22 license; and

23 (f) Issue a (~~certificate~~) license to any applicant who has met
24 the education, training, and conduct requirements for certification(~~+~~
25 and

26 ~~(g) Issue a registration to an applicant who meets the requirement~~
27 ~~for a registration)).~~

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

30 (3) The Uniform Disciplinary Act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs the
31 issuance and denial of (~~registrations and certifications, unregistered~~
32 ~~and uncertified practice,~~) licenses and the discipline of
33 (~~registrants and certificatees~~) licensees under this chapter. The
34 secretary is the disciplining authority under this chapter.

35 (4) The secretary may appoint (~~ad hoc members of the profession to~~
36 ~~serve in an ad hoc advisory capacity to the secretary in carrying out~~
37 ~~this chapter. The members will serve for designated times and provide~~
38 ~~advice on matters specifically identified and requested by the~~

1 secretary.)) an advisory committee to implement the provisions of
2 chapter . . . , Laws of 1998 (this act). The committee shall be
3 composed of at least five members, one member initially appointed for
4 a term of one year, two members for a term of two years, and two
5 members for a term of three years. Subsequent appointments must be for
6 terms of three years. No person may serve as a member of the committee
7 for more than two consecutive terms. Members of the advisory committee
8 must be residents of this state. The committee shall be composed of
9 three individuals licensed under this chapter, one member who is a
10 radiologist, and one member who represents the public at large and is
11 unaffiliated directly or indirectly with radiologic technology. The
12 radiologist member must be licensed under chapter 18.71, 18.57, 18.32,
13 or 18.25 RCW and must be certified by a national board of radiology as
14 determined by the secretary.

15 (a) If there is a vacancy on the advisory committee, the secretary
16 shall appoint a person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired
17 term.

18 (b) The advisory committee shall meet at the times and places
19 designated by the secretary to provide advice on matters specifically
20 identified and requested by the secretary. The committee may elect a
21 chair and a vice-chair. A majority of the members currently serving
22 constitutes a quorum.

23 (c) The members shall be compensated in accordance with RCW
24 43.03.220 and reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.040 and
25 43.03.060.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This chapter does not apply to the following
27 persons:

28 (1) A student actively enrolled in an approved school of radiologic
29 technology while practicing radiologic technology under the supervision
30 of an instructor who is either a radiologist or a licensed radiologic
31 technologist;

32 (2) A person who is operating bone densitometry equipment for
33 diagnostic purposes under the supervision of a radiologist, if the
34 person operates the equipment for those purposes under the direction of
35 a radiologist;

36 (3) A person who operates dental X-ray equipment for the sole
37 purpose of oral radiography;

1 (4) A licensed health care practitioner operating X-ray equipment,
2 when performing services within the lawful scope of the practitioner's
3 license, including:

4 (a) A physician or physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71
5 or 18.71A RCW;

6 (b) An osteopathic physician or surgeon or osteopathic physician
7 assistant licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.57A RCW;

8 (c) A podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22
9 RCW;

10 (d) A dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW;

11 (e) A chiropractor licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW;

12 (f) A registered nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or
13 practical nurse licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW; or

14 (g) A radiologist licensed under chapter 18.71, 18.57, 18.32, or
15 18.25 RCW and certified by a national board of radiology or by a
16 national osteopathic board of radiology as determined by the secretary.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1)(a) A person licensed, or issued a
18 limited permit, to practice radiologic technology, therapeutic
19 radiologic technology, or nuclear medicine technology in this state may
20 renew the license or permit with the secretary of health and pay a
21 renewal fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250.
22 Failure to register and pay the annual renewal fee renders the license
23 or limited permit invalid, but the license or limited permit may be
24 reinstated upon written application to the secretary, payment of a
25 penalty fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250,
26 and payment of delinquent biennial license or limited permit renewal
27 fees.

28 (b) Any person who fails to renew the license or limited permit for
29 a period of three years is not entitled to renew the license under this
30 section and must file an original application in accordance with this
31 chapter, along with the requisite fee, to obtain a license or limited
32 permit to practice radiologic technology, therapeutic radiologic
33 technology, or nuclear medicine technology in this state. The
34 secretary may permit the applicant to be licensed or issued a limited
35 permit without examination if the secretary is satisfied that the
36 applicant meets all the requirements for licensure in this state and is
37 competent to engage in the practice of radiologic technology,
38 therapeutic radiologic technology, or nuclear medicine technology.

1 (2) The secretary may establish rules governing mandatory
2 continuing competency requirements which must be met by technologists
3 and technicians applying for renewal of licenses or limited permits to
4 show completion of education pertinent to the subject area of
5 radiologic technology for which the license or permit was issued.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** To obtain a license as a nuclear medicine
7 technologist, an applicant must:

8 (1) Be currently certified by a recognized national professional
9 program in nuclear medicine approved by the secretary; or

10 (2) Be currently certified by a nuclear medicine technology program
11 approved by the secretary; or

12 (3) Have completed a course of study in an approved program of
13 nuclear medicine technology and, according to the standards adopted by
14 the secretary, pass an appropriate examination, as developed and
15 approved by the secretary.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** To obtain a license as a radiologic
17 technologist in the diagnostic field, an applicant must:

18 (1) Be currently certified by a recognized national program in X-
19 ray technology approved by the secretary; or

20 (2) Have completed a course of study in an approved program of
21 radiologic technology and, according to the standards adopted by the
22 secretary, pass an appropriate examination, as determined by the
23 secretary.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** To obtain a license as a radiologic
25 technologist in the therapeutic field, an applicant must:

26 (1) Be currently certified by a recognized national program in
27 radiation therapy approved by the secretary; or

28 (2) Have completed a course in radiation therapy in an approved
29 program of radiologic technology and pass an appropriate examination,
30 as determined by the secretary; or

31 (3) Meet the qualifications for a license as a radiologic
32 technologist in the diagnostic field, have completed at least two years
33 of full-time experience in radiation therapy under the direction of a
34 radiation oncologist, and pass an appropriate examination, as
35 determined by the secretary.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The secretary may conduct one or more
2 examinations each year at times and places determined by the secretary.

3 (2) An applicant who fails to pass an examination may take
4 additional examinations as scheduled by the secretary.

5 (3) If an applicant fails an examination three times, the
6 department shall order the applicant to cease performing radiologic
7 technology examinations on human beings.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** An applicant holding a license to practice
9 radiologic technology in another state may be licensed in this state
10 without examination if the secretary determines that the other state's
11 licensing standards are substantially equivalent to the standards in
12 this state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** (1) The secretary shall issue to an
14 applicant a limited license to practice in a limited area of radiologic
15 technology if the applicant meets the requirements for a limited
16 license as provided in this section. The limited license must state
17 the category or categories for which the applicant has demonstrated
18 competence and must be limited to the categories listed in (a) through
19 (g) of this subsection or as established by the secretary by rule:

- 20 (a) Upper extremities;
- 21 (b) Pelvis or lower extremities, or both;
- 22 (c) Chest and ribs, not including fluoroscopy;
- 23 (d) Spine;
- 24 (e) Head, not including tomography;
- 25 (f) Abdomen, not including fluoroscopy or contrast studies; or
- 26 (g) Foot and ankle for podiatry use.

27 (2) An applicant for a limited license shall:

- 28 (a) Make an application in writing;
- 29 (b) Pay an application fee set by rule by the secretary;
- 30 (c) Be at least eighteen years of age;
- 31 (d) Have successfully passed a course of instruction in radiation
32 use and safety consisting of at least forty hours of instruction
33 approved by rule by the secretary, with the instructor certifying on a
34 form provided by the secretary that the applicant has completed the
35 requirements;

36 (e) Have successfully completed a course of instruction approved by
37 the secretary and taught by a licensed radiologic technologist in

1 clinical practice specific to each category for which the applicant
2 seeks a limited license, with the instructor certifying on a form
3 provided by the secretary that the applicant has completed the course
4 in those categories applied for; and

5 (f) Have successfully completed a practical experience program
6 approved by rule by the secretary, specific to each category for which
7 the applicant seeks a limited license.

8 (3) A person issued a limited license shall notify the secretary in
9 writing of the name of each licensed practitioner supervising the
10 permittee's performance of diagnostic X-ray technology and shall
11 perform diagnostic X-ray technology only while being directed by a
12 licensed practitioner. If the permittee is later supervised by a
13 licensed practitioner other than the person whose name was initially
14 furnished to the secretary, the permittee shall immediately notify the
15 secretary in writing on forms provided by the secretary.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. (1) The secretary may, without examination,
17 issue a temporary license to a graduate of, or a student enrolled in,
18 an approved school of radiologic technology upon application and
19 payment of a registration fee, set by rule by the secretary, if the
20 person practices as a diagnostic radiologic technologist, nuclear
21 medicine technologist, or therapeutic radiologic technologist, under
22 the supervision of a licensed practitioner. A temporary license is
23 valid for a period of six months, and the secretary may renew the
24 temporary license for an additional six-month period.

25 (2) The secretary may, without examination, issue a temporary
26 license to a person upon application and payment of a registration fee,
27 set by rule by the secretary, if the person practices diagnostic
28 radiologic technology under the direction of a licensed practitioner,
29 and if the person is enrolled in a course of instruction in radiation
30 use and safety approved by the secretary. A temporary license is valid
31 for three months, and the secretary may not renew the permit except as
32 provided under subsection (1) of this section.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 14. (1) A person who is certified under this
34 chapter on the effective date of this section may continue to practice
35 as a current license holder for the purposes of this chapter. The
36 person may receive a license upon application or at the time of the

1 expiration of the certificate or registration, using the renewal
2 procedures set forth under this chapter.

3 (2) A person who is registered under this chapter on the effective
4 date of this section may continue as a limited license holder for the
5 purpose of this chapter. A person who is classified as a limited
6 license holder under this chapter has a period of two years from the
7 effective date of this section to provide documentation of education as
8 set forth in section 12 of this act. If documentation is not provided,
9 the secretary shall deny the renewal request and the applicant may not
10 practice radiologic technology. The applicant may reapply for a
11 limited license as set forth in section 12 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** The following acts or parts of acts are
13 each repealed:

- 14 (1) RCW 18.84.010 and 1991 c 222 s 1 & 1987 c 412 s 1;
- 15 (2) RCW 18.84.020 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 505, 1991 c 222 s 2, 1991 c
16 3 s 204, & 1987 c 412 s 3;
- 17 (3) RCW 18.84.030 and 1991 c 222 s 3 & 1987 c 412 s 2;
- 18 (4) RCW 18.84.040 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 506, 1991 c 222 s 11, 1991
19 c 3 s 205, & 1987 c 412 s 5;
- 20 (5) RCW 18.84.050 and 1991 c 3 s 206 & 1987 c 412 s 6;
- 21 (6) RCW 18.84.070 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 507, 1991 c 3 s 208, & 1987
22 c 412 s 8;
- 23 (7) RCW 18.84.080 and 1991 c 3 s 209 & 1987 c 412 s 9;
- 24 (8) RCW 18.84.090 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 508, 1991 c 3 s 210, & 1987
25 c 412 s 10;
- 26 (9) RCW 18.84.100 and 1996 c 191 s 71, 1991 c 3 s 211, & 1987 c 412
27 s 11;
- 28 (10) RCW 18.84.110 and 1996 c 191 s 72, 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 509, 1991
29 c 3 s 212, & 1987 c 412 s 12;
- 30 (11) RCW 18.84.120 and 1996 c 191 s 73 & 1991 c 222 s 4;
- 31 (12) RCW 18.84.130 and 1991 c 222 s 5;
- 32 (13) RCW 18.84.140 and 1991 c 222 s 6;
- 33 (14) RCW 18.84.150 and 1991 c 222 s 7;
- 34 (15) RCW 18.84.160 and 1991 c 222 s 8; and
- 35 (16) RCW 18.84.170 and 1991 c 222 s 10.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** This act takes effect October 1, 1999.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** Sections 2, 3, and 5 through 14 of this act
2 are each added to chapter 18.84 RCW.

--- **END** ---