
HOUSE BILL 2655

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris and Quall

Read first time 01/19/2004. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to radiology assistants; amending RCW 18.84.010,
2 18.84.020, and 18.84.030; and adding a new section to chapter 18.84
3 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 technologists or radiology assistants, and by regulating
13 all 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 in
7 this section apply throughout this chapter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (d) Radiologist assistant, who is an advanced-level certified
34 radiologic technologist who has completed an academic program
35 encompassing a radiologist assistant curriculum from an approved school
36 of radiologic technology and a radiologist-directed clinical
37 preceptorship who:

1 (i) Works to enhance patient care under the indirect supervision of
2 a radiologist, by assisting the radiologist in the diagnostic imaging
3 environment; and

4 (ii) Performs advanced diagnostic procedures, as permitted by rule,
5 under the general supervision of a radiologist, including radiology
6 procedures, invasive procedures, procedures as delegated by a
7 radiologist, and the types of injection of contrast media and
8 radioactive isotopes material allowed.

9 (5) "Approved school of radiologic technology" means a school of
10 radiologic technology approved by the council on medical education of
11 the American medical association or a school found to maintain the
12 equivalent of such a course of study as determined by the department.
13 Such school may be operated by a medical or educational institution,
14 and for the purpose of providing the requisite clinical experience,
15 shall be affiliated with one or more general hospitals.

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

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

20 (8) "Registered x-ray technician" means a person who is registered
21 with the department, and who applies ionizing radiation at the
22 direction of a licensed practitioner and who does not perform
23 parenteral procedures.

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

26 No person may practice radiologic technology without being
27 registered or certified under this chapter, unless that person is a
28 licensed practitioner as defined in RCW 18.84.020(3). A person
29 represents himself or herself to the public as a certified radiological
30 technologist when that person adopts or uses a title or description of
31 services that incorporates one or more of the following items or
32 designations:

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

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

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

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

5 (5) Certified radiologist assistant or certified radiology
6 practitioner assistant for persons so certified under this chapter.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.84 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 It shall be considered unprofessional conduct under chapter 18.130
10 RCW for any person registered or certified under this chapter to
11 interpret images, make diagnoses, or prescribe medications or
12 therapies.

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