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HOUSE BILL 2513

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris, Quall, Kenney, Morrell, Dunn, and Green

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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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