

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5880

As Passed Senate, February 1, 2024

Title: An act relating to establishing a primary certification process for magnetic resonance imaging technologists.

Brief Description: Establishing a primary certification process for magnetic resonance imaging technologists.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senator Muzzall).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long Term Care: 1/09/24, 1/16/24 [DPS].

Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 2/1/24, 49-0.

Brief Summary of First Substitute Bill

- Adds magnetic resonance imaging technologists to those who may be certified as a radiologic technologist.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5880 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Cleveland, Chair; Robinson, Vice Chair; Rivers, Ranking Member; Muzzall, Assistant Ranking Member; Conway, Dhingra, Holy, Padden, Randall and Van De Wege.

Staff: Greg Attanasio (786-7410)

Background: The Department of Health (DOH) certifies radiologic technologists who practice as a:

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- diagnostic radiologic technologist;
- therapeutic radiologic technologist;
- nuclear medicine technologist;
- radiologist assistant; or
- cardiovascular invasive specialist.

To be certified as a diagnostic radiologic technologist, therapeutic radiologic technologist, or nuclear medicine technologist, an applicant must:

- graduate from an approved school or successfully complete alternate training that meets the criteria established by the secretary of health (secretary);
- satisfactorily complete a radiologic technologist examination approved by the secretary; and
- have good moral character.

To be certified as a radiologist assistant an applicant must:

- satisfactorily complete an approved radiologist assistant program;
- satisfactorily complete a radiologist assistant examination approved by the secretary; and
- have good moral character.

To be certified as a cardiovascular invasive specialist an applicant must:

- satisfactorily complete a cardiovascular invasive specialist program or alternate training approved by the secretary. The secretary may only approve a cardiovascular invasive specialist program that includes training in cardiovascular anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, radiation physics and safety, radiation imaging and positioning, medical recordkeeping, and multicultural health;
- satisfactorily complete a cardiovascular invasive specialist examination approved by the secretary; and
- have good moral character.

Summary of First Substitute Bill: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technologist is added to the list of professions that may be certified as a radiologic technologist. An MRI technologist is a person who, under the direct supervision of a physician, uses a nonionizing radiation process on a human by which certain nuclei, when placed in a magnetic field, absorb and release energy in the form of radio waves analyzed by a computer thereby producing an image of human anatomy and physiological information.

To be certified as an MRI technologist, an applicant must:

- graduate from an approved school or successfully complete alternate training that meets the criteria established by the secretary;
- satisfactorily complete a radiologic technology examination approved by the secretary; and
- have good moral character.

No person may adopt or use a title of certified magnetic resonance imaging technologist or certified radiologic technologist (CRT) unless certified by DOH.

DOH may provide educational materials and training to registered X-ray technicians, CRTs, licensed practitioners, and the public concerning, but not limited to, health risks associated with ionizing and nonionizing radiation, proper radiographic techniques, and X-ray and other imaging equipment maintenance.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: Facilities cannot currently hire the most highly trained MRI technologists because the states does not recognize this education pathway. This is a workforce issue, which has resulted in increased wait times and limited access to care. It is important to have enough providers to provide needed services, including breast MRIs.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Ron Muzzall, Prime Sponsor; Kate White Tudor, Rayus Radiology; Kristin Kessler, Rayus Radiology; Douglas Seiler, TRA Medical Imaging .

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.