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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6439**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2008 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Spanel and Berkey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/08.

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 a adding new  
3 section 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 assists radiologists by  
36 performing advanced diagnostic imaging procedures as determined by rule  
37 under levels of supervision defined by the secretary, this includes but

1 is not limited to enteral and parenteral procedures when performed  
2 under the direction of the supervising radiologist, and that these  
3 procedures may include injecting diagnostic agents to sites other than  
4 intravenous, performing diagnostic aspirations and localizations, and  
5 assisting radiologists with other invasive procedures.

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

14 (6) "Approved radiologist assistant program" means a school  
15 approved by the secretary and recognized by the American registry of  
16 radiologic technologists.

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

19 (~~(7)~~) (8) "Radiologist" means a physician certified by the  
20 American board of radiology or the American osteopathic board of  
21 radiology.

22 (~~(8)~~) (9) "Registered X-ray technician" means a person who is  
23 registered with the department, and who applies ionizing radiation at  
24 the direction of a licensed practitioner and who does not perform  
25 parenteral procedures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (5) Certified radiologist assistant or CRA for persons certified as  
8 radiologist assistants.

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

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

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

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

17 (c) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this  
18 chapter;

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

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

26 (f) Issue a certificate to any applicant who has met the education,  
27 training, examination, and conduct requirements for certification; and

28 (g) Issue a registration to an applicant who meets the requirement  
29 for a registration.

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

32 (3) The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs the  
33 issuance and denial of registrations and certifications, unregistered  
34 and uncertified practice, and the discipline of registrants and  
35 certificants under this chapter. The secretary is the disciplining  
36 authority under this chapter.

1 (4) The secretary may appoint ad hoc members of the profession to  
2 serve in an ad hoc advisory capacity to the secretary in carrying out  
3 this chapter. The members will serve for designated times and provide  
4 advice on matters specifically identified and requested by the  
5 secretary. The members shall be compensated in accordance with RCW  
6 43.03.220 and reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.040 and  
7 43.03.060.

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

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

13 (a) A diagnostic radiologic technologist, therapeutic radiologic  
14 technologist, or nuclear medicine technologist:

15 (i) Graduation from an approved school or successful completion of  
16 alternate training that meets the criteria established by the  
17 secretary; (~~and~~

18 ~~b))~~ (ii) Satisfactory completion of a radiologic technologist  
19 examination approved by the secretary; and

20 (iii) Good moral character; or

21 (b) A radiologist assistant:

22 (i) Satisfactory completion of an approved radiologist assistant  
23 program;

24 (ii) Satisfactory completion of a radiologist assistant examination  
25 approved by the secretary; and

26 (iii) Good moral character.

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

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

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

34 It is unprofessional conduct under chapter 18.130 RCW for any  
35 person registered or certified under this chapter to interpret images,

1 make diagnoses, prescribe medications or therapies, or perform other  
2 procedures that may be prohibited by rule.

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