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*Bill Analysis*  
Legislative Service Commission

**H.B. 570**  
123rd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Reps. **Boyd, Van Vyven, Allen, D. Miller, Barrett, Harris, Flannery, Cates, Brading**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Provides for licensing of cardiovascular technologists by the Department of Health.
- Prohibits practicing as a cardiovascular technologist without a license.
- Establishes criminal penalties for practicing and establishes criminal penalties.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Overview**

The bill provides for licensing of a cardiovascular technologist by the Department of Health. "Cardiovascular technologist" is defined by the bill as an individual who prepares, monitors, and assists in the performance of intravascular cardiac catheterization procedures.

**Licensing procedures**

(sec. 4773.03)

**Application process**

The bill provides that each individual seeking a license to practice as a cardiovascular technologist must apply to the Department of Health on a form the Department prescribes and provides. The application must be accompanied by the appropriate license fee established in rules adopted by the Department.

### **Requirements for licensure**

The Department is required by the bill to review all applications received and issue a license to practice cardiovascular technology to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

- (1) Is 18 years of age or older;
- (2) Is of good moral character;
- (3) Passes an examination in cardiovascular technology administered by the Department or another entity with whom the Department has contracted;
- (4) Complies with any other licensing standards established in rules adopted by the Department.

The bill provides that an applicant is not required to take a licensing examination if the applicant holds certification as a cardiovascular technologist from Cardiovascular Credentialing International or any other credentialing body recognized by the American Medical Association or the American Association of Cardiology and approved by the Department in its rules.

### **Renewal**

A cardiovascular technologist license expires biennially on the license holder's birthday, except for an initial license, which expires on the license holder's birthday following two years after it is issued. For an initial license, the fee established in rules may be increased in proportion to the amount of time beyond two years that the license may be valid.

A license may be renewed if the license holder completes the continuing education requirements specified in rules adopted by the Department. Applications for license renewal must be accompanied by the appropriate renewal fee established in rules. Renewals must be made in accordance with the standard renewal procedure established under current law (R.C. Chapter 4745.).

Under the bill, the Department must refuse to issue or renew and may suspend or revoke a cardiovascular technologist license if the applicant or license holder does not comply with the applicable requirements in the bill or rules adopted under it.

### **Prohibitions and penalties**

(secs. 4773.02 and 4773.99)

#### **Prohibition**

The bill provides that no person may practice as or claim to the public to be a cardiovascular technologist without a valid cardiovascular technologist license issued by the Department of Health. This prohibition does not apply to a physician podiatrist, mechanotherapist, or chiropractor; radiologic personnel employed by the federal government or serving in the United States Armed Forces and practicing in accordance with federal law; an individual licensed in Ohio as a dentist, dental hygienist, or dental x-ray machine operator; or a student engaged in any of the activities performed by cardiovascular technologists as an integral part of a program of study leading to receipt of a license as a cardiovascular technologist.

#### **Penalties**

Under the bill, the unauthorized practice of cardiovascular technology is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable by a maximum sentence of six months and a fine of up to \$1,000. For each subsequent offense, a person is guilty of a felony of the fifth degree, punishable by a prison term of six to 12 months and a fine of up to \$2,500.

#### **Licensure examinations**

(sec. 4773.04)

The Department of Health is required by the bill to examine, or contract with another entity to examine, each qualified applicant for a license. To be eligible for admittance to an examination, an application must submit evidence satisfactory to the Department or other examiner that the applicant has successfully completed a course of study in cardiovascular technology conducted by an educational program accredited by the Department. In examining or contracting for the examination of applicants, the Department must ensure that an opportunity to take the examination is available at least three times each year.

The Department is required by the bill to develop or contract for an examination for licensure as a cardiovascular technologist. The examination may consist of all or part of any standardized examination created by any entity for the purpose of determining the competence of individuals to practice as cardiovascular technologists.

**Scope of practice**

(sec. 4773.06)

The bill provides that a cardiovascular technologist may prepare, monitor, or assist in the performance of the following cardiac catheterization procedures:

- (1) Cardiac radiologic procedures;
- (2) Implantation of pacemakers;
- (3) Electrophysiologic study;

(4) Other intravascular cardiac catheterization procedures performed for diagnostic, therapeutic, or interventional purposes as determined by the Director of Health.

A cardiovascular technologist may perform an intravascular cardiac catheterization procedure only if a physician is directly involved in the procedure. Direct involvement does not require the physician to perform the intravascular cardiac catheterization procedure but does require that the physician be present in the room where the cardiovascular technologist is performing the procedure or an adjoining room for purposes of consulting with and directing the technologist while performing the procedure.

**Accreditation of educational programs**

(sec. 4773.07)

Each person seeking accreditation for an educational program or approval for a continuing education program in cardiovascular technology must apply to the Department of Health on a form the Department prescribes and provides. The application must be accompanied by the accreditation or approval fee established in rules adopted by the Department.

The Department is required by the bill to accredit educational programs and approve continuing education programs in cardiovascular technology that meet the standards established in rules adopted by the Department. Accreditation or approval is valid until surrendered by the program or suspended or revoked by the Department. The bill provides that a program's accreditation or approval may be suspended or revoked if the program does not comply with the applicable requirements in the bill or rules adopted under it.

**Adoption of rules**

(sec. 4773.08)

The bill provides that the Public Health Council must, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 119. of the Revised Code), adopt rules establishing all of the following for cardiovascular technologists:

- (1) Standards for licensing;
- (2) Application and renewal fees for licenses that do not exceed the cost incurred in issuing and renewing the licenses;
- (3) Standards for the accreditation of educational programs and approval of continuing education programs;
- (4) Fees for accrediting educational programs and approving continuing education programs that do not exceed the cost incurred in accrediting the educational programs;
- (5) Continuing education requirements that must be met to have a license renewed;
- (6) Any other rules necessary for the implementation of the bill's provisions.

**Technical corrections**

(secs. 4773.03 and 4773.08)

Until October 20, 1995, the Department of Health issued conditional licenses to individuals practicing as an x-ray machine operator, radiographer, radiation therapy technologist, or nuclear medicine technologist. The conditional licenses were not renewable and expired on the license holder's birthday that occurred on or after October 20, 1997. The bill repeals several provisions in current law related to these conditional licenses.

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced H0570-I.123/jc	02-03-2000	p. 1585