



S.B. 362

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Gardner, Spada, Mumper

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits practicing or holding oneself out as a radiologist assistant without a radiologist assistant license.
- Creates licensure requirements for radiologist assistants.
- Authorizes a licensed radiologist assistant to perform certain radiologic procedures under the direct supervision of a radiologist.
- Requires the Public Health Council to adopt rules to implement the licensure of radiologist assistants.
- Provides for sanctions against practicing or holding oneself out as a radiologist assistant without a radiologist assistant license.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Radiologist assistants

(R.C. 4774.01, 4774.02, and 4774.08)

Current law prohibits the performance of radiologic procedures except by certain licensed or certified individuals, or certain students.¹ The bill creates a licensure procedure to permit a licensed radiologist assistant to perform certain

¹*Those that may practice radiologic procedures under Ohio law are any of the following who are licensed in Ohio: a physician, podiatrist, mechanotherapist, chiropractor, dentist, dental hygienist, dental x-ray operator, general x-ray machine operator, radiographer, radiation therapy technologist, nuclear medicine technologist, certain students, and certain federal government employees.*

radiologic procedures under the direct supervision of a radiologist.² Under the bill, a licensed radiologist assistant who is supervised by a radiologist may do all of the following:

- (1) Perform fluoroscopic procedures;
- (2) Assess and evaluate the physiologic and psychological responsiveness of patients undergoing radiologic procedures;
- (3) Evaluate image quality, make initial image observations, and communicate observations to the supervising radiologist;
- (4) Administer contrast media or other medications prescribed by the supervising radiologist;
- (5) Perform any other procedures consistent with guidelines adopted by the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

The supervising radiologist may authorize a radiologist assistant to perform only those radiologic procedures described above. The bill requires a supervising radiologist to be present at the location where the radiologist assistant performs the radiologic procedures. The supervising radiologist must consult with the assistant and direct the assistant's performance of the radiological procedures. The bill specifies, however, that it does not require the supervising radiologist to observe each radiologic procedure performed by the radiologist assistant.

Radiologist assistant licensure

(R.C. 4774.02, 4774.04, and 4774.06)

The bill prohibits a person from practicing radiologic procedures or holding the person's self out as a radiologist assistant without holding a radiologist assistant license. The bill exempts from this prohibition persons who are engaging in their scope of practice or performing a task as part of certain advanced academic programs.

Under the bill, the Department of Health is to license a person as a radiologist assistant if the person meets all of the following requirements:

² Under the bill a "radiologist" is a doctor of medicine (M.D.) or osteopathic medicine (D.O.) who specializes in radiology (R.C. 4774.01). "Radiology" is defined by the bill as the branch of medicine that deals with the use of radioactive substances in diagnosis and treatment of disease (R.C. 4774.01).

(1) Applies in writing to the Department for a radiologist assistant license and provides the required license fee;³

(2) Is at least 18 years of age and of good moral character;

(3) Is licensed as a radiographer⁴ under existing law (Revised Code Chapter 4773.);

(4) Has a baccalaureate degree or post-baccalaureate certificate from an advanced academic program that encompasses a nationally recognized radiologist assistant curriculum that includes a radiologist-directed clinical preceptorship;

(5) Is certified in advanced cardiac life support;

(6) Has satisfied any other requirements established in rules by the Public Health Council.

Rulemaking authority

(R.C. 4774.10)

The bill requires the Public Health Council⁵ to adopt rules to implement and administer the licensure of radiologist assistants. The bill requires the rules to be consistent with guidelines adopted by the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, where applicable. The rules are to establish all of the following:

(1) Standards and fees for issuing and renewing radiologist assistant licenses, including the duration of time a license is valid and license renewal standards;

³ *The fee is to be set in rules established by the Public Health Council (see "**Rulemaking authority**" below).*

⁴ *"Radiographer" is defined under current law (R.C. 4773.01) as an individual who performs a comprehensive scope of diagnostic radiologic procedures employing equipment that emits ionizing radiation, exposes radiographs, and performs other procedures that contribute significantly to determining the site or dosage of ionizing radiation to which a patient is exposed.*

⁵ *The Public Health Council is part of the Ohio Department of Health. The Council is responsible for adopting statewide rules and standards for the preservation and maintenance of public health.*

- (2) Procedures and grounds for denying applications for licensure;
- (3) Procedures and grounds for revoking or suspending licenses, or other disciplinary actions;
- (4) Continuing education requirements for radiologist assistants;
- (5) Any other requirements the council considers appropriate to the licensure and regulation of radiologist assistants.

Sanctions

(R.C. 4774.99)

Under the bill, whoever holds himself or herself out as a radiologist assistant or performs the radiologic procedures of a radiologist assistant without a radiologist assistant license is subject to sanctions. A first offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree, and each subsequent offense is a felony of the fifth degree.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	08-17-06

s0362-i-126.doc/jc