

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to radiologist assistants; amending s. 468.301, F.S.; providing definitions; amending s. 468.302, F.S.; providing for identification of certified radiologist assistants; providing for the duties and limitations on duties of radiologist assistants; amending s. 468.304, F.S.; providing conditions for qualification for a radiologist assistant's certificate; amending s. 468.3065, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Health to issue certificates by endorsement to certain radiologist assistants; providing for a fee; amending s. 468.314, F.S.; revising membership on the Advisory Council on Radiation Protection; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (15) of section 468.301, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (17), and new subsections (15) and (16) are added to that section, to read:

468.301 Definitions.--As used in this part, the term:

(15) "Radiologist" means a physician specializing in radiology certified by or eligible for certification by the American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology, the British Royal College of Radiology, or the Canadian College of Physicians and Surgeons.

(16) "Radiologist assistant" means a person, other than a licensed practitioner, who is qualified by education and certification, as set forth in s. 468.304, as an advanced-level

29 radiologic technologist who works under the supervision of a
 30 radiologist to enhance patient care by assisting the radiologist
 31 in the medical imaging environment.

32 Section 2. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (2) of
 33 section 468.302, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (h) is added to
 34 subsection (3) of that section, to read:

35 468.302 Use of radiation; identification of certified
 36 persons; limitations; exceptions.--

37 (2)

38 (g) A person holding a certificate as a radiologist
 39 assistant may use the title "Certified Radiologist Assistant" or
 40 the letters "CRA" after his or her name.

41
 42 No other person is entitled to so use a title or letters
 43 contained in this subsection or to hold himself or herself out
 44 in any way, whether orally or in writing, expressly or by
 45 implication, as being so certified.

46 (3)

47 (h) A person holding a certificate as a radiologist
 48 assistant may:

49 1. Perform specific duties allowed for a radiologist
 50 assistant as defined by the department by rule. The rule must be
 51 consistent with guidelines adopted by the American College of
 52 Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and
 53 the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, with the
 54 level of supervision required by such guidelines.

55 2. Not interpret images, make diagnoses, or prescribe
 56 medications or therapies.

57
58 For the purposes of this paragraph as it relates to the
59 radiologist assistant, "supervision" means the radiologist must
60 be present in the office suite and immediately available to
61 furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of
62 the procedure. It does not mean that the radiologist must be
63 present in the room when the procedure is performed.

64 Section 3. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section
65 468.304, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

66 468.304 Certification.--The department shall certify any
67 applicant who meets the following criteria:

68 (3) Submits satisfactory evidence, verified by oath or
69 affirmation, that she or he:

70 (e)1. Has successfully completed an educational program,
71 which program may be established in a hospital licensed pursuant
72 to chapter 395 or in an accredited postsecondary academic
73 institution which is subject to approval by the department as
74 maintaining a satisfactory standard; or

75 2.a. With respect to an applicant for a basic X-ray
76 machine operator's certificate, has completed a course of study
77 approved by the department with appropriate study material
78 provided the applicant by the department;

79 b. With respect to an applicant for a basic X-ray machine
80 operator-podiatric medicine certificate, has completed a course
81 of study approved by the department, provided that such course
82 of study shall be limited to that information necessary to
83 perform radiographic procedures within the scope of practice of
84 a podiatric physician licensed pursuant to chapter 461;

85 c. With respect only to an applicant for a general
 86 radiographer's certificate who is a basic X-ray machine operator
 87 certificateholder, has completed an educational program or a 2-
 88 year training program that takes into account the types of
 89 procedures and level of supervision usually and customarily
 90 practiced in a hospital, which educational or training program
 91 complies with the rules of the department; ~~or~~

92 d. With respect only to an applicant for a nuclear
 93 medicine technologist's certificate who is a general
 94 radiographer certificateholder, has completed an educational
 95 program or a 2-year training program that takes into account the
 96 types of procedures and level of supervision usually and
 97 customarily practiced in a hospital, which educational or
 98 training program complies with the rules of the department; or-

99 e. With respect to an applicant for a radiologist
 100 assistant's certificate who is a general radiographer
 101 certificateholder, has completed an advanced educational program
 102 encompassing a nationally recognized radiologist assistant
 103 curriculum culminating in a baccalaureate degree,
 104 postbaccalaureate certificate, or graduate degree and that
 105 incorporates a radiologist-directed clinical preceptorship.

106
 107 The department may not certify any applicant who has committed
 108 an offense that would constitute a violation of any of the
 109 provisions of s. 468.3101 or the rules adopted thereunder if the
 110 applicant had been certified by the department at the time of
 111 the offense. No application for a limited computed tomography
 112 certificate shall be accepted. All persons holding valid

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113 computed tomography certificates as of October 1, 1984, are
 114 subject to the provisions of s. 468.309.

115 Section 4. Section 468.3065, Florida Statutes, is amended
 116 to read:

117 468.3065 Certification by endorsement.--

118 (1) The department may issue a certificate by endorsement
 119 to practice as a radiologist assistant to an applicant who, upon
 120 applying to the department and remitting a nonrefundable fee not
 121 to exceed \$50, demonstrates to the department that he or she
 122 holds a current certificate or registration as a radiologist
 123 assistant granted by the American Registry of Radiologic
 124 Technologists.

125 (2) The department may issue a certificate by endorsement
 126 to practice radiologic technology to an applicant who, upon
 127 applying to the department and remitting a nonrefundable fee not
 128 to exceed \$50, demonstrates to the department that he or she
 129 holds a current certificate, license, or registration to
 130 practice radiologic technology, provided that the requirements
 131 for such certificate, license, or registration are deemed by the
 132 department to be substantially equivalent to those established
 133 under this part and rules adopted under this part.

134 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 468.314, Florida
 135 Statutes, is amended, paragraphs (h) through (n) of subsection
 136 (2) of that section are redesignated as paragraphs (i) through
 137 (o), respectively, and a new paragraph (h) is added to that
 138 subsection, to read:

139 468.314 Advisory Council on Radiation Protection;
 140 appointment; terms; powers; duties.--

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141 (1) The Advisory Council on Radiation Protection is
142 created within the Department of Health and shall consist of 16
143 ~~15~~ persons to be appointed by the secretary for 3-year terms.

144 (2) The council shall be comprised of:

145 (h) A certified radiologist assistant.

146 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 31, 2006.