

1 Introduced by Committee on Health Care

2 Date:

3 Subject: Health; health care professionals; radiologist assistants

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize  
5 radiologist assistants to provide services without having a radiologist  
6 physically present, provided a radiologist is available remotely for consultation  
7 and intervention and a physician is physically present in case of a medical  
8 emergency. The bill would also allow radiologist assistants to communicate  
9 with patients regarding the radiologist assistants' preliminary observations  
10 about the technical performance of a procedure or examination and about the  
11 findings from a radiologist's report.

12 An act relating to radiologist assistants

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 2851 is amended to read:

15 § 2851. DEFINITIONS

16 As used in this chapter:

17 \* \* \*

18 (8)(A) “Supervision” means the direction and review by a supervising  
19 radiologist, as determined to be appropriate by the Board, of the medical  
20 services provided by the radiologist assistant. At a minimum, supervision shall

1 mean that a radiologist is readily available for consultation and intervention. A  
2 radiologist assistant may provide services under the direction and review of  
3 more than one supervising radiologist during the course of ~~his or her~~ the  
4 radiologist assistant's employment, subject to the limitations on ~~his or her~~ the  
5 radiologist assistant's scope of practice as set forth in this chapter and the  
6 protocol filed under subsection 2853(b) of this title.

7 (B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (8), “readily  
8 available” means that a radiologist is available in person or is available  
9 remotely by telephone or through a live, interactive audio and video  
10 connection.

11 Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 2857 is amended to read:

12 § 2857. SUPERVISION AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

13 (a)(1) The number of radiologist assistants permitted to practice under the  
14 direction and supervision of a radiologist shall be determined by the Board  
15 after review of the system of care delivery in which the supervising radiologist  
16 and radiologist assistants propose to practice. Scope of practice and levels of  
17 supervision shall be consistent with guidelines adopted by the American  
18 College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and  
19 the ARRT.

20 (2) The authority of a radiologist assistant to practice shall terminate  
21 immediately upon termination of the radiologist assistant's employment, and

1 the primary supervising radiologist shall immediately notify the Board and the  
2 Commissioner of the Department of Health of the termination. The radiologist  
3 assistant’s authority to practice shall not resume until ~~he or she~~ the radiologist  
4 assistant provides proof of other employment and a protocol as required under  
5 this chapter.

6 (3) If a supervising radiologist is not physically present at the location at  
7 which a radiologist assistant is practicing, the radiologist assistant shall provide  
8 services only when a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 23 or 33 of this  
9 title, who need not be a radiologist, is physically present at the location and  
10 would be responsible for providing intervention or assistance in the event of a  
11 medical emergency.

12 (b)(1) Subject to the limitations set forth in subsection (a) of this section,  
13 the radiologist assistant’s scope of practice shall be limited to that delegated to  
14 the radiologist assistant by the primary supervising radiologist and for which  
15 the radiologist assistant is qualified by education, training, and experience. At  
16 no time shall the practice of the radiologist assistant exceed the normal scope  
17 of the supervising radiologist’s practice.

18 (2) A radiologist assistant may shall not interpret images, make  
19 diagnoses, or prescribe medications or therapies but may communicate with  
20 patients regarding the radiologist assistant’s preliminary observations  
21 regarding the technical performance of a procedure or examination and

1 regarding the findings from a radiologist’s report. Preliminary observations  
2 shall not include any communication about the presence or absence of features  
3 or characteristics that would be considered in making a diagnosis.

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.