

SENATE PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

H. 562

An act relating to the regulation of professions and occupations

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read:

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4606 is amended to read:

§ 4606. BRAND CERTIFICATION

~~If the prescriber does not wish substitution to take place, he or she shall write "brand necessary" or "no substitution" in his or her own handwriting on the prescription blank, together with a written statement that the generic equivalent has not been effective, or with reasonable certainty is not expected to be effective, in treating the patient's medical condition or causes or is reasonably expected to cause adverse or harmful reactions in the patient. In the case of an unwritten prescription, there shall be no substitution if the prescriber expressly indicates to the pharmacist that the brand name drug is necessary and substitution is not allowed because the generic equivalent has not been effective, or with reasonable certainty is not expected to be effective, in treating the patient's medical condition or causes or is reasonably expected to cause adverse or harmful reactions in the patient.~~

If the prescriber has determined that the generic equivalent of a drug being prescribed has not been effective or with reasonable certainty is not expected to be effective in treating the patient's medical condition or causes or is reasonably expected to cause adverse or harmful reactions in the patient, the prescriber shall indicate "brand necessary," "no substitution," "dispense as written," or "DAW" in the prescriber's own handwriting on the prescription blank and the pharmacist shall not substitute the generic equivalent. If a prescription is unwritten and the prescriber has determined that the generic equivalent of the drug being prescribed has not been effective or with reasonable certainty is not expected to be effective in treating the patient's medical condition or causes or is reasonably expected to cause adverse or harmful reactions in the patient, the prescriber shall expressly indicate to the pharmacist that the brand-name drug is necessary and substitution is not allowed and the pharmacist shall not substitute the generic equivalent.

Second: By striking out Sec. 5 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 5 to read:

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4607 is amended to read:

§ 4607. INFORMATION; LABELING

(a) Every pharmacy in the state shall have posted a sign in a prominent

place that is in clear unobstructed view which shall read: "Vermont law requires pharmacists in some cases to select a less expensive generic equivalent for the drug prescribed unless you or your physician direct otherwise. ~~Substitution will be noted on your prescription label by an "S" in the lower left corner.~~ Ask your pharmacist."

* * *

~~(c) If a generically equivalent substitution has been made, an "S" will be noted in the lower left corner of the prescription label.~~

Third: By adding a Sec. 8a to read:

Sec. 8a. 26 V.S.A. § 805(b) is amended to read:

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section and any other provision of law, a dentist or dental hygienist who holds an unrestricted license in all jurisdictions in which the dentist or dental hygienist is currently licensed, who certifies to the Vermont board of dental examiners that he or she will limit his or her practice in Vermont to providing pro bono services at a free or reduced fee clinic in Vermont and who meets the criteria of the board, shall be licensed by the board within 60 days of the licensee's certification without further examination, interview, fee or any other requirement for board licensure. The dentist or dental hygienist shall file with the board, on forms provided by the board and based on criteria developed by the board, information on dental qualifications, professional discipline, criminal record, malpractice claims or any other such information as the board may require. A license granted under this subsection shall authorize the licensee to practice dentistry or dental hygiene on a voluntary basis in Vermont.

Fourth: By adding a Sec. 8b to read:

Sec. 8b. 26 V.S.A. § 761 is amended to read:

§ 761. STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS;
CREATION;QUALIFICATIONS

The state board of dental examiners is created and shall consist of ~~five~~ six dental practitioners of good standing, who have practiced in this state for a period of five years or more, are in active practice, and are legal residents of the state of Vermont, two registered dental hygienists certified pursuant to subchapter 4 of this chapter, who have practiced in the state of Vermont for a period of three years immediately preceding the appointment, are in active practice and are legal residents of the state of Vermont, one dental assistant registered pursuant to section 863 of this title who has practiced in the state of Vermont for a period of three years immediately preceding the appointment, is in active practice, and is a legal resident of the state of Vermont, and two members of the public not associated with the practice of dentistry. Board members shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to sections 129b and

2004 of Title 3. No member of the board may be an officer or serve on a committee of his or her respective state or local professional dental or dental hygienist organization nor shall any member of the board be on the faculty of a school of dentistry or dental hygiene.

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 31 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 31 to read:

Sec. 31. 26 V.S.A. § 3175 is amended to read:

§ 3175a. ~~FIREARMS AND GUARD DOG TRAINING;~~ INSTRUCTOR LICENSURE; PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

~~(a) An applicant for a private detective or security guard license to provide armed services shall demonstrate to the board competence in the safe use of firearms in a firearms training program approved by the board and taught by an instructor currently licensed under this section. Firearms training may include evidence of law enforcement or military training in firearms. An applicant for a license to provide guard dog services shall demonstrate to the board competence in the handling of guard dogs in a guard dog training program approved by the board and taught by an instructor currently licensed under this section.~~

~~(b)~~ The board shall license firearms training course instructors of ~~such training courses~~ private investigators and security guards licensed under this chapter and shall adopt rules governing the licensure of instructors and the approval of firearms and guard dog training programs.

~~(e)~~(b) The board shall not issue a license as a firearms training program instructor without first obtaining and approving all of the following:

* * *

~~(d)~~ The board shall not issue a license as a guard dog training program instructor without first obtaining and approving the following:

- ~~(1) The application filed in the proper form.~~
- ~~(2) The application fee established in subdivision 3178a(5)(A) of this title.~~
- ~~(3) Evidence that the applicant has obtained the age of majority.~~
- ~~(4) A copy of the applicant's training program.~~
- ~~(5) Proof of certification as an instructor from an instructor's course approved by the board.~~
- ~~(6) A federal background check.~~

~~(e)~~(c) Instructors licensed under this section are subject to the same renewal requirements as others licensed under this chapter, and prior to renewal are

required to show proof of current instructor licensure and pay the renewal fee established in subdivision 3178a(5)(B) of this title.

~~(f) Hunter safety instructors shall be exempt from the licensure requirements of this section for the purpose of hunter safety instruction.~~

Sixth: In Sec. 48, 26 V.S.A. § 3323(b)(4), at the end of the subdivision, by adding the following: This subdivision shall not affect a licensee's or a registrant's professional liability to consumers or to other licensees or registrants.

Seventh: By adding Secs. 19a, 19b, 19c, 19d, 19e, and 55 to read:

Sec. 19a. 26 V.S.A. chapter 52 is added to read:

CHAPTER 52. RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS

§ 2851. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "ARRT" means the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or its successor, as recognized by the board.

(2) "Board" means the state board of medical practice established under chapter 23 of this title.

(3) "Contract" means a legally binding written agreement containing the terms of employment of a radiologist assistant.

(4) "Disciplinary action" means any action taken by the board against a certified radiologist assistant or an applicant or an appeal of that action when that action suspends, revokes, limits, or conditions certification in any way or when it results in a reprimand of the person.

(5) "Protocol" means a detailed description of the duties and scope of practice delegated by a radiologist to a radiologist assistant.

(6) "Radiologist" means a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy under chapter 23 or 33 of this title and who is certified by or eligible for certification by the American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology or their predecessors or successors or who is credentialed by a hospital to practice radiology and engages in the practice of radiology at that hospital full-time.

(7) "Radiologist assistant" means a person certified by the state of Vermont under this chapter who is qualified by education, training, experience, and personal character to provide medical services under the direction and supervision of a radiologist.

(8) "Supervision" means the direction and review by a supervising radiologist, as determined to be appropriate by the board, of the medical

services provided by the radiologist assistant. At a minimum, supervision shall mean that a radiologist is readily available for consultation and intervention. A radiologist assistant may provide services under the direction and review of more than one supervising radiologist during the course of his or her employment, subject to the limitations on his or her scope of practice as set forth in this chapter and the protocol filed under subsection 2853(b) of this title.

§ 2852. CERTIFICATION AND RULEMAKING

The board shall certify radiologist assistants, and the commissioner of health shall adopt rules regarding the training, practice, supervision, qualification, scope of practice, places of practice, and protocols for radiologist assistants and regarding patient notification and consent.

§ 2853. APPLICATION

(a) An application for certification shall be accompanied by an application by the proposed primary supervising radiologist that shall contain a statement that the radiologist shall be responsible for all professional activities of the radiologist assistant.

(b) An application for certification shall be accompanied by a protocol signed by one proposed supervising radiologist and proof of employment of the radiologist assistant by that radiologist or by the hospital at which the radiologist practices. The supervising radiologist who signs the protocol shall be deemed the primary supervisor of the radiologist assistant for the purposes of this chapter.

(c) The applicant shall submit to the board any other information the board considers necessary to evaluate the applicant's qualifications.

§ 2854. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for certification as a radiologist assistant, an applicant shall:

(1) have obtained a degree from a radiologist assistant educational program that is recognized by the ARRT under its "Recognition Criteria for Radiologist Assistant Educational Programs" adopted on July 1, 2005, as periodically revised and updated;

(2) have satisfactorily completed the radiologist assistant certification examination given by the ARRT and be currently certified by the ARRT;

(3) be certified as a radiologic technologist in radiography by the ARRT; and

(4) be licensed as a radiologic technologist in radiography in this state under chapter 51 of this title.

§ 2855. TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION

(a) The board may issue a temporary certification to a person who applies for certification for the first time in this state and meets the educational requirements under subsection 2854 of this title.

(b) Temporary certification may be issued only for the purpose of allowing an otherwise qualified applicant to practice as a radiologist assistant until the applicant takes and passes the next ARRT certification examination and a determination is made that he or she is qualified to practice in this state.

(c) Temporary certification shall be issued upon payment of the specified fee for a fixed period of time to be determined by the board and shall only be renewed by the board if the applicant demonstrates proof of an exceptional cause.

§ 2856. RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION

(a) Certifications shall be renewable every two years upon payment of the required fee and submission of proof of current, active ARRT certification, including compliance with continuing education requirements.

(b) A certification that has lapsed may be reinstated on payment of a renewal fee and a late renewal fee. The applicant shall not be required to pay back renewal fees for the periods when certification was lapsed. However, if certification remains lapsed for a period of three years, the board may, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, require reexamination as a condition of renewal.

§ 2857. SUPERVISION AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

(a) The number of radiologist assistants permitted to practice under the direction and supervision of a radiologist shall be determined by the board after review of the system of care delivery in which the supervising radiologist and radiologist assistants propose to practice. Scope of practice and levels of supervision shall be consistent with guidelines adopted by the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the ARRT. The authority of a radiologist assistant to practice shall terminate immediately upon termination of the radiologist assistant's employment, and the primary supervising radiologist shall immediately notify the board and the commissioner of the department of health of the termination. The radiologist assistant's authority to practice shall not resume until he or she provides proof of other employment and a protocol as required under this chapter.

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

the supervising radiologist's practice. A radiologist assistant may not interpret images, make diagnoses, or prescribe medications or therapies.

§ 2858. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) The following conduct by a certified radiologist assistant constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of certification:

(1) fraudulent procuring or use of certification;

(2) occupational advertising that is intended or has a tendency to deceive the public;

(3) exercising undue influence on or taking improper advantage of a person using the radiologist assistant's services or promoting the sale of professional goods or services in a manner that exploits a person for the financial gain of the radiologist assistant or of a third party;

(4) failing to comply with provisions of federal or state law governing the profession;

(5) conviction of a crime related to the profession or conviction of a felony, whether or not related to the practice of the profession;

(6) conduct that evidences unfitness to practice in the profession;

(7) making or filing false professional reports or records, impeding or obstructing the proper making or filing of professional reports or records, or failing to file the proper professional report or record;

(8) practicing the profession when mentally or physically unfit to do so;

(9) professional negligence;

(10) accepting and performing responsibilities that the person knows or has reason to know that he or she is not competent to perform;

(11) making any material misrepresentation in the practice of the profession, whether by commission or omission;

(12) holding one's self out as or permitting one's self to be represented as a licensed physician;

(13) performing otherwise than at the direction and under the supervision of a radiologist licensed by the board;

(14) accepting the delegation of or performing or offering to perform a task or tasks beyond the person's scope of practice as defined by the board;

(15) administering, dispensing, or prescribing any controlled substance other than as authorized by law;

(16) failing to comply with an order of the board or violating any term or condition of a certification restricted by the board;

(17) delegating professional responsibilities to a person whom the certified professional knows or has reason to know is not qualified by training, experience, education, or licensing credentials to perform;

(18) in the course of practice, gross failure to use and exercise on a particular occasion or the failure to use and exercise on repeated occasions that degree of care, skill, and proficiency that is commonly exercised by the ordinary skillful, careful, and prudent professional engaged in similar practice under the same or similar conditions, whether or not actual injury to a patient has occurred; or

(19) revocation of certification to practice as a radiologist assistant in another jurisdiction on one or more of the grounds specified in subdivisions (1)–(18) of this subsection.

(b) A person aggrieved by a final order of the board may, within 30 days of the order, appeal that order to the Vermont supreme court on the basis of the record created before the board.

§ 2859. DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS

(a) Complaints and allegations of unprofessional conduct shall be processed in accordance with the rules of procedure of the board.

(b) The board shall accept complaints from a member of the public, a physician, a hospital, a radiologist assistant, a state or federal agency, or the attorney general. The board shall initiate an investigation of a radiologist assistant when a complaint is received or may act on its own initiative without having received a complaint.

(c) If the board determines that the action of a radiologist assistant that is the subject of a complaint falls entirely within the scope of practice of a radiologic technologist in radiography, the board shall refer the complaint to the board of radiologic technology for review under chapter 51 of this title.

(d) After giving opportunity for hearing, the board shall take disciplinary action against a radiologist assistant or applicant found guilty of unprofessional conduct.

(e) The board may approve a negotiated agreement between the parties when it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, or welfare to do so. That agreement may include any of the following conditions or restrictions which may be in addition to or in lieu of suspension:

(1) a requirement that the person submit to care or counseling;

(2) a restriction that the person practice only under supervision of a named person or a person with specified credentials;

(3) a requirement that the person participate in continuing education in order to overcome specified practical deficiencies;

(4) a requirement that the scope of practice permitted be restricted to a specified extent.

(f) Upon application, the board may modify the terms of an order under this section and, if certification has been revoked or suspended, order reinstatement on terms and conditions it deems proper.

§ 2860. USE OF TITLE

Any person who is certified to practice as a radiologist assistant in this state shall have the right to use the title “radiologist assistant” or “registered radiologist assistant” and the abbreviation “R.A.” or “R.R.A.” No other person may assume that title or use that abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or devices to indicate that the person using them is a radiologist assistant. A radiologist assistant shall not so represent himself or herself unless there is currently in existence a valid employment arrangement between the radiologist assistant and his or her employer or primary supervising radiologist and unless the protocol under which the radiologist assistant’s duties are delegated is on file with and has been approved by the board.

§ 2861. LEGAL LIABILITY

(a) The primary supervising radiologist delegating activities to a radiologist assistant shall be legally liable for the activities of the radiologist assistant, and the radiologist assistant shall in this relationship be the radiologist’s agent.

(b) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to apply to nurses acting pursuant to chapter 28 of this title.

§ 2862. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1)(A)(i) Original application for certification \$115.00;

(ii) Each additional application \$50.00;

(B) The board shall use at least \$10.00 of these fees to support the costs of the creation and maintenance of a Vermont practitioner recovery network which will monitor recovering chemically dependent licensees for the protection of the public.

(2)(A)(i) Biennial renewal \$115.00;

(ii) Each additional renewal \$50.00;

(B) The board shall use at least \$10.00 of these fees to support the costs of the creation and maintenance of a Vermont practitioner recovery

network that will monitor recovering chemically dependent licensees for the protection of the public. In addition to the fee, an applicant for certification renewal shall submit evidence in a manner acceptable to the board that he or she continues to meet the certification requirements of the ARRT and is licensed as a radiologic technologist under chapter 51 of this title.

(3) Transfer of certification \$15.00.

§ 2863. NOTICE OF USE OF RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS

A radiologist who uses the services of a radiologist assistant shall post a notice to that effect in an appropriate place and include language in the patient consent form that the radiologist uses a radiologist assistant.

§ 2864. PENALTY

(a) A person who, not being certified, holds himself or herself out to the public as being certified under this chapter shall be liable for a fine of not more than \$1,000.00.

(b) In addition to the penalty provided in subsection (a) of this section, the attorney general or a state's attorney may bring a civil action to restrain continuing violations of this section.

Sec. 19b. 26 V.S.A. § 1842(b)(12) is added to read:

(12) Use of the services of a radiologist assistant in a manner that is inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 52 of this title.

Sec. 19c. 26 V.S.A. § 1354(a) is amended to read:

(a) The board shall find that any one of the following, or any combination of the following, whether or not the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the state, constitutes unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(31) use of the services of an anesthesiologist assistant by an anesthesiologist in a manner that is inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 29 of this title;

(32) use of the services of a radiologist assistant by a radiologist in a manner that is inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 52 of this title.

Sec. 19d. 26 V.S.A. § 1351(e) is amended to read:

(e) The commissioner of health shall adopt, amend, and repeal rules of the board which the commissioner determines necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter and chapters 7, 29, ~~and~~ 31, and 52 of this title.

Sec. 19e. 26 V.S.A. § 1352(a) is amended to read:

(a) The commissioner of health shall issue annually a report to the secretary of human services and the secretary of the Vermont medical society which shall contain:

(1) a separate record of the name, residence, college, and date of graduation of each individual licensed or certified by the board;

(2) a list of all physicians, physician's assistants, podiatrists, radiologist assistants, and anesthesiologist assistants practicing in the state;

(3) a summary of all disciplinary actions undertaken by the board during the year of the report; and

(4) an accounting of all fees and fines received by the board and all expenditures and costs of the board for such year. A sufficient number of copies shall be printed to supply the needs of the board and the state library.

Sec. 55. EFFECTIVE DATE

This section and Secs. 19a, 19b, 19c, 19d, and 19e of this act shall take effect upon passage.

Eighth: By adding a Sec. 54 to read:

Sec. 54. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The department of health shall evaluate its procedures for application for licensure for under 18 V.S.A. § 1395(c). On or before March 15, 2011 the department shall report to the house and senate committees on government operations its findings regarding facilitating the granting of licenses to qualified physicians who will limit their practice in Vermont to providing pro bono services at a free or reduced fee health care clinic in Vermont while assuring that these physicians meet all the standards required of physicians fully licensed to practice in Vermont.