

1 H.473

2 An act relating to radiologist assistants

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

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

5 § 2851. DEFINITIONS

6 As used in this chapter:

7 \* \* \*

8 (6) “Radiologist” means a person who is licensed to practice medicine  
9 or osteopathy under chapter 23 or 33 of this title and who meets one or both of  
10 the following requirements:

11 (A) The person is certified by or eligible for certification by the  
12 American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of  
13 Radiology or their predecessors or successors ~~or who~~.

14 (B) The person is credentialed by a hospital to practice radiology and  
15 engages in the practice of radiology at that hospital full-time.

16 \* \* \*

17 (8) “Readily available” means that a supervising radiologist is available  
18 in person or is available remotely by telephone or through a live, interactive  
19 audio and video connection.

20 (9) “Supervision” means the direction and review by a supervising  
21 radiologist, as determined to be appropriate by the Board, of the medical  
22 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 Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 2857 is amended to read:

8 § 2857. SUPERVISION AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

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

16 (2) The authority of a radiologist assistant to practice shall terminate  
17 immediately upon termination of the radiologist assistant's employment, and  
18 the primary supervising radiologist shall immediately notify the Board and the  
19 Commissioner of the Department of Health of the termination. The radiologist  
20 assistant's authority to practice shall not resume until ~~he or she~~ the radiologist

1 assistant provides proof of other employment and a protocol as required under  
2 this chapter.

3 (3) The primary supervising radiologist and radiologist assistant shall be  
4 employed by and have as their primary work site the same health care facility  
5 or an affiliate of the facility, provided that:

6 (A) the radiologist assistant's primary work site shall be located in  
7 Vermont; and

8 (B) the primary supervising radiologist does not need to be physically  
9 present at the same location where the radiologist assistant is practicing as long  
10 as a supervising radiologist is readily available for consultation and  
11 intervention.

12 (4) If a supervising radiologist is not physically present at the location at  
13 which a radiologist assistant is practicing, the radiologist assistant shall provide  
14 services only when a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 23 or 33 of this  
15 title, who need not be a radiologist, is physically present at the location and  
16 would be responsible for providing intervention or assistance in the event of a  
17 medical emergency.

18 (b)(1) Subject to the limitations set forth in subsection (a) of this section,  
19 the radiologist assistant's scope of practice shall be limited to that delegated to  
20 the radiologist assistant by the primary supervising radiologist and for which  
21 the radiologist assistant is qualified by education, training, and experience. At

1 no time shall the practice of the radiologist assistant exceed the normal scope  
2 of the supervising radiologist's practice.

3       (2) A radiologist assistant ~~may~~ shall not interpret images, make  
4 diagnoses, or prescribe medications or therapies but may communicate with  
5 patients regarding the radiologist assistant's preliminary observations  
6 regarding the technical performance of a procedure or examination and  
7 regarding the findings from a radiologist's report. Preliminary observations  
8 shall not include any communication about the presence or absence of features  
9 or characteristics that would be considered in making a diagnosis.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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