

1 H.473

2 Introduced by Committee on Health Care

3 Date:

4 Subject: Health; health care professionals; radiologist assistants

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

13 An act relating to radiologist assistants

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

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

16 § 2851. DEFINITIONS

17 As used in this chapter:

18 * * *

1 (8)(A) “Supervision” means the direction and review by a supervising
2 radiologist, as determined to be appropriate by the Board, of the medical
3 services provided by the radiologist assistant. At a minimum, supervision
4 shall mean that a radiologist is readily available for consultation and
5 intervention. A radiologist assistant may provide services under the direction
6 and review of more than one supervising radiologist during the course of ~~his or~~
7 ~~her~~ the radiologist assistant’s employment, subject to the limitations on ~~his or~~
8 ~~her~~ the radiologist assistant’s scope of practice as set forth in this chapter and
9 the protocol filed under subsection 2853(b) of this title.

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

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

15 § 2857. SUPERVISION AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

16 (a)(1) The number of radiologist assistants permitted to practice under the
17 direction and supervision of a radiologist shall be determined by the Board
18 after review of the system of care delivery in which the supervising radiologist
19 and radiologist assistants propose to practice. Scope of practice and levels of
20 supervision shall be consistent with guidelines adopted by the American

1 College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and
2 the ARRT.

3 (2) The authority of a radiologist assistant to practice shall terminate
4 immediately upon termination of the radiologist assistant's employment, and
5 the primary supervising radiologist shall immediately notify the Board and the
6 Commissioner of the Department of Health of the termination. The radiologist
7 assistant's authority to practice shall not resume until ~~he or she~~ the radiologist
8 assistant provides proof of other employment and a protocol as required under
9 this chapter.

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

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

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

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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