

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: S2/17/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 79

5 By: Senator D. Johnson
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 *AN ACT TO REGULATE RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS AND*
10 *RADIOLOGY PRACTITIONER ASSISTANTS; AND FOR OTHER*
11 *PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO REGULATE RADIOLOGIST
15 ASSISTANTS AND RADIOLOGY PRACTITIONER
16 ASSISTANTS.

18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 106, is amended to add an
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

23 17-106-201. Radiologist assistant and radiology practitioner assistant
24 -- License required.

25 (a) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall grant a license to practice
26 as a radiologist assistant and a radiology practitioner assistant to a
27 qualified applicant who complies with the rules for licensure adopted under
28 this subchapter.

29 (b) An individual shall not practice as a radiologist assistant or a
30 radiology practitioner assistant unless the person is licensed as a
31 radiologist assistant or a radiology practitioner assistant by the board.

32
33 17-106-202. Rules

34 The Arkansas State Medical Board shall adopt rules to:

35 (1) Define the qualifications for licensure of a radiologist
36 assistant or a radiology practitioner assistant;



1 (2)(A) Define the services that may be performed by a
2 radiologist assistant or a radiology practitioner assistant, and the level of
3 supervision required for the performance of a radiologist assistant or a
4 radiology practitioner assistant.

5 (B) The rules adopted under subdivision (2)(A) of this
6 section shall specify that a radiologist assistant or radiology practitioner
7 assistant shall not interpret images, make diagnoses, or prescribe
8 medications or therapies;

9 (3)(A) Define the qualifications of a supervising physician.

10 (B) The rules adopted under subdivision (3)(A) of this
11 section shall specify the manner and scope of supervision that a licensed
12 physician must employ when supervising a radiologist assistant or a radiology
13 practitioner;

14 (C)(i) Only a physician licensed to practice medicine in
15 the State of Arkansas under § 17-95-401, et seq. who resides in Arkansas or
16 in an immediately contiguous county of an adjacent state and who is a
17 diagnostic radiologist certified by the American Board of Radiology may
18 utilize the services of a radiologist assistant or a radiology practitioner
19 assistant.

20 (ii) However, a physician may utilize the services
21 of a radiologist assistant or a radiology practitioner assistant under
22 subdivision (3)(C)(i) of this section only if the physician supervises the
23 radiologist assistant or radiology practitioner assistant;

24 (4) Establish requirements for annual renewal of the license of
25 a radiologist assistant and a radiology practitioner assistant;

26 (5) Establish continuing education requirements for renewal of
27 licensure for a radiologist assistant and a radiology practitioner assistant;
28 and

29 (6) Establish a program for probation of a radiologist assistant
30 and a radiology practitioner assistant.

31
32 17-106-203. Fee.

33 The Arkansas State Medical Board shall charge a licensure application
34 fee not to exceed the administrative and disciplinary costs incurred by the
35 board in administering the licensure program under this subchapter.

36

1 17-106-204. Penalties.

2 If a radiologist assistant or a radiology practitioner assistant is
3 found by the Arkansas State Medical Board to have violated the Arkansas
4 Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., or the rules adopted under this
5 subchapter, the board may impose one (1) or more of the following penalties:

6 (1) Suspension or revocation of the license to practice as a
7 radiologist assistant or radiology practitioner assistant;

8 (2) A fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per
9 violation;

10 (3) Recovery from the radiologist assistant or the radiology
11 practitioner assistant of the costs of an investigation and hearing if the
12 radiologist assistant or the radiology practitioner assistant is found to
13 have violated the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., or the
14 rules adopted under this subchapter;

15 (4) Placement of the radiologist assistant or the radiology
16 practitioner assistant under probation; and

17 (5) A reprimand.

18
19 17-106-205. Emerging categories of physician extenders.

20 (a) For purposes of this section:

21 (1) "Imaging sciences" means those disciplines utilizing
22 electromagnetic or sound energies in the diagnosis of human disease; and

23 (2) "Therapeutic disciplines" means those disciplines employing
24 sealed and unsealed radioactive sources in the treatment of human disease.

25 (b) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall adopt rules for the
26 licensure or certification of emerging categories of physician extenders in
27 the imaging sciences and therapeutic disciplines.

28 (c) This section does not grant authority to the board to regulate
29 other licensed practitioners of the healing arts, including practitioners
30 with radiologic technology licenses as currently defined and regulated by the
31 Department of Health.

32 /s/ D. Johnson