

Kentucky Board of Medical Imaging & Radiation Therapy

**Proposed Bill – formerly
HB 486 (Spring 2011)**

Kentucky Licensure History

- **1978** – Radiation Operator Certification Program implemented; KRS 211.870 & 211.890
- **2007** – Revised regulations; added Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Radiation Therapists
- **2011** – HB 486 introduced to move licensure program from the Cabinet for Health & Family Services to independent, self-governing professional board

Rationale for Change

- Currently over 8,000 licensees, including:
 - radiographers (5,900)
 - nuclear medicine technologists (545)
 - radiation therapists (237)
 - limited operators (1,070)
 - temporary licensees (400)
- ***3rd largest group of health professionals in Kentucky (after nurses and physicians)***

Rationale, cont.

- **Board of Occupations & Professions**

- Dietitians/Nutritionists
- Physicians/Osteopaths
- Dentists & Specialists
- Nurses
- Respiratory Care
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Barbering
- Auctioneers

- **Cabinet for Health & Family Services**

- Child Care Facilities
- Hotel and Motel Facilities
- Milk Safety
- Public Buildings and Recreational Areas
- **Radiation Operators**
- Registered Sanitarians
- School Facilities
- Tattoos and Body Piercing

Rationale, cont.

- Limited resources in Frankfort:
 - 1 full time radiography/imaging professional*
 - 2 quarter time administrative assistants
- Limited professional representation
- Lack of self governance in regulatory and professional disciplinary issues
- * Given recent changes in job descriptions, NO guarantee that we will have a radiation or imaging professional in radiation operator certification area if current staff leaves

Rationale, cont.

- Most health occupations and professions have their own self-governing peer board
- Concerns about medical radiation exposure to the general population require more than an administrative office in the Radiation Health Branch that issues certificates to monitor this type of situation and ensure patient safety

Rationale, cont.

- With advances in imaging, self-governance and regulation is very important, especially with fusion imaging being more widely used clinically
- Our current administrative structure isn't able to keep up with advances in technology and changes in national currents; e.g. KY is behind the national certification trends for PET and CT

Rationale, cont.

- August 23, 2011 – The Joint Commission issued a sentinel event* alert relative to radiation risks in diagnostic imaging
 - High doses of radiation contribute to a greater risk of long term effects
 - Insufficient radiation can increase the risk of misdiagnosis, delayed treatment, or repeated studies
- Broader oversight through a peer Board can better monitor these concerns.
- *"A sentinel event is an unexpected occurrence involving death or serious physical or psychological injury." ©2011 The Joint Commission

Board Creation

- Professional Board would include representatives from radiography, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, general x-ray machine operator (limited), education/radiology administration, and non-healthcare community
- Board members would represent all major geographical areas of Kentucky – no 2 members from the same county

Board Responsibilities

- Issue and renew the license of qualified applicants
- Determine and enforce continuing education requirements, and establish guidelines for approval of continuing education
- Approve accredited educational programs for the radiation science professions and monitor compliance with the educational standards established by the individual disciplines

Board Responsibilities, cont.

- Investigate suspected or alleged violations, conduct hearings and record minutes, resolve the allegations and, if appropriate, impose sanctions or penalties
- Submit a report of activities to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission each year
- Hire an executive director and staff to support Board and licensees; appoint ad hoc committees, if necessary

Advantages of Board

- Ability to better oversee the quality of the profession
- Ability to respond to changes in the professions more quickly; ensure professions are meeting national standards
- Ability to increase staff to support the growing number of licensees
- Provide licensees with a voice through broader representation

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Please remember...

- This is ***NOT*** a new license
- This moves oversight of radiation professionals out of the Cabinet into an independent, self-governing peer Board of professional representatives
- Self-supporting budget – licensure fees will be used to support Board
- No known opposition

What's next?

- **Prior to next session, which starts in January 2012:**
 - Information is being posted on KSRT, Inc. and KSNMT websites
 - Contact legislators – goal of 20 representatives and 20 senators to support bill
 - Work with John Will Stacy's office to get bill pre-filed, to allow maximum time for passage of bill
 - Gain support from Ky Hospital Association and other groups
 - Identify other organizations that may oppose us
 - Draft regulations for the bill

How do we make this happen?

- Contact your legislators
 - Call and leave a message (see list of legislators or go to <http://lrc.ky.gov> and click on “Who’s My Legislator”)
 - Schedule an appointment to visit your legislator when he/she is in the home office; depending on timing, several of us would be willing to accompany you
 - The Health & Welfare joint meetings (House and Senate) will be holding interim meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, through November.
 - Share this information with your colleagues and ask for their support

Development/Review Committee*

- **Sheryl Abercrombie**, *Radiology Director, University of Kentucky Medical Center*
- **Vanessa Breeding**, *Radiation Operator Certification Program, Cabinet for Health & Family Services*
- **Andrea Cornuelle**, *Professor, Radiologic Technology, Northern Kentucky University*
- **Charles Coulston**, *Director, Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Program, Bluegrass Technical & Community College*
- **Dewey Crawford**, *Former Director Radiation Health Branch; Clinical Coordinator, Nuclear Medicine Program Bluegrass Community & Technical College*
- **Jackie Darling**, *Associate Professor, Radiologic Sciences, Morehead State University*
- **Cyndi Gibbs**, *Associate Professor, Radiologic Sciences, Morehead State University*
- **Mike Goode**, *Radiologic Director, University of Louisville Medical Center*
- **Joy Menser**, *Director, Radiologic Technology Program, Owensboro Community College*
- **Ann Obergfell**, *Former Dean of Health Sciences, St. Catharine College; Chair of Radiologic Science and Interim Dean, IUPUI Ft. Wayne, Indiana*
- **Tom Rally**, *Radiation Therapy, University of Kentucky Radiation Oncology Center.*
- **Carol Scherbak**, *Assistant Professor, Northern Kentucky University; Former Radiation Therapy Program Director, University of Kentucky Medical Center*
- ***Many have worked on this project; the above list is by no means all inclusive. Apologies to anyone who was inadvertently omitted from this list. Thanks to all who have contributed to this endeavor.**

Special Thanks

- Rep. John Will Stacy – introducing HB 486 in spring 2011
- Rep. Ruth Ann Palumbo and Rep. Jim Glenn for co-sponsoring HB 486

Questions?



Please contact:

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if you have any questions.