



**OHIO  
Radiological  
Society Inc.**

**Testimony In Opposition to a Proposed Amendment to Change Supervision Requirements of**

**General X-Ray Machine Operators (GXMO's)**

**By Dr. John Olsen, OSU Radiation Oncology (Retired)**

**Governor's Appointment, Radiation Advisory Council, Ohio Department of Health**

**May 10, 2023**

**Before the Senate Finance Committee**

**Senator Matt Dolan, Chair**

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Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chairman Cirino and Ranking Member Sykes:

It has come to the attention of the Ohio Radiological Society that an amendment is being sought to attach to the Ohio Biennial Budget Bill, Am. Sub. House Bill 33, that would reduce the physician supervision requirement of General X-Ray Machine Operators (GXMO's). See the proposed amendment pasted at the end of my testimony.

These proposed changes assume far more skill and expertise on the part of the GXMO's than exists. Ohio may be the only state with GXMO's, a category created to assist the needs of chiropractors, podiatrists and some orthopedic surgeons when Ohio first began licensing radiologic and nuclear technologists. Ohio's registered radiographers have a minimum of 2 years of training in an educational facility which begins after two years of post-high school college level education. GXMO's may or may not have completed high school and undergo a weekend of courses in radiation safety, protection and health in addition to specific education by the practitioner who is planning to employ them for a very specific role in a specific practice. These on job training skills do not translate to a different provider.

After the weekend course, GXMO trainees take a simple written examination which has about a 50% fail rate (unless the test has been further watered down and simplified since I last heard). This is a test in which radiologic and nuclear medicine technologists would all have a 100% pass rate and with the same weekend course every nurse practicing in Ohio would easily pass. In fact, students accepted for entry into a two-year training radiologic technology program would pass the test after the same weekend course prior to beginning their training. You are discussing two completely different levels of competence between GXMO's and virtually every other type of licensed health worker. GXMO's and registered radiologic technologists should never even be mentioned in the same bill. It would be far safer to the radiologic health of Ohio citizens, which ultimately the public expects the legislature to protect, if the legislature would eliminate the entire class of GXMO's. If you understood what a GXMO is, you would be horrified by any suggestion of scope expansion or supervision reduction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. John Olsen

OSU Radiation Oncology (Retired)

Governor's Appointment, Radiation Advisory Council, Ohio Department of Health

SC0255

Sub. H.B. 33

As Passed by the House

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to amend as follows:

In line 130 of the title, after "4768.15," insert "4773.06," 1

In line 586, after "4768.15," insert "4773.06," 2

After line 74645, insert: 3

"Sec. 4773.06. (A) Except as provided in ~~division~~ divisions 4  
(C) and (D) of this section, a general x-ray machine operator may 5  
perform radiologic procedures only if a physician, podiatrist, 6  
mechanotherapist, or chiropractor is providing direct supervision. 7  
Direct supervision does not require the practitioner to observe 8  
each radiologic procedure performed by the operator, but does 9  
require that the practitioner be present at the location where the 10  
operator is performing radiologic procedures for purposes of 11  
consulting with and directing the operator while performing the 12  
procedures. A practitioner supervising a general x-ray machine 13  
operator may authorize the operator to perform only those 14  
radiologic procedures that are within the practitioner's scope of 15  
practice as determined by the laws under which the practitioner is 16  
authorized to practice. 17

(B) A radiographer, radiation therapy technologist, or 18  
nuclear medicine technologist may perform radiologic procedures 19  
only if a physician is providing general supervision. General 20

supervision does not require the physician to observe each 21  
 radiologic procedure performed or to be present at the location 22  
 where the procedure is being performed, but does require that the 23  
 physician be readily available for purposes of consulting with and 24  
 directing the individual while performing the procedures. 25

(C) A general x-ray machine operator who is licensed under 26  
 Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code to practice as a registered 27  
 nurse and is providing occupational health nursing services in an 28  
 industrial workplace may perform radiologic procedures under a 29  
 physician's general supervision, as described in division (B) of 30  
 this section. 31

(D) A general x-ray operator is subject to general 32  
 supervision, to be provided by a supervising practitioner who is a 33  
 physician, podiatrist, mechanotherapist, or chiropractor, if both 34  
 of the following are the case: 35

(1) The operator is performing radiologic procedures with an 36  
 x-ray machine only on a patient's chest, spine, abdomen, or 37  
 extremities. 38

(2) The operator is performing the procedures in a facility 39  
 being operated as an urgent care facility or occupational health 40  
 care facility." 41

In line 101905, after "4768.15," insert "4773.06," 42

The motion was \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to.

SYNOPSIS

Supervision of general x-ray machine operators 43

R.C. 4773.06

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Authorizes a general x-ray machine operator to perform 45  
radiologic procedures under the general supervision of a 46  
physician, podiatrist, mechanotherapist, or chiropractor, rather 47  
than under direct supervision as required by current law, if the 48  
procedures are performed as follows: 49

(1) With an x-ray machine only on a patient's chest, spine, 50  
abdomen, or extremities; 51

(2) In an urgent care or occupational health care facility. 52