OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 324
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Huffman

Elizabeth Molnar, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Authorizes a general X-ray machine operator to perform radiologic procedures under the direct supervision of a certified nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
- In the case of a general X-ray machine operator who is a registered nurse and provides occupational health nursing services in an industrial workplace, clarifies that the registered nurse is not subject to a physician's general supervision if the nurse also is a certified nurse practitioner.
- Exempts a certified nurse practitioner and physician assistant from the law prohibiting practice as a general X-ray machine operator or other radiation technician without holding a license issued by the Department of Health.
- Establishes an additional exception to the law requiring an applicant for a general X-ray machine operator license to pass the examination administered by the Department of Health, by allowing the applicant to instead pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists' anatomy modules examination.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

General X-ray machine operators

S.B. 324 revises in several ways the law governing general X-ray machine operators, individuals licensed by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to operate ionizing radiation-generating equipment when performing standard radiology procedures.[1]

[1] R.C. 4773.01(A).

Direct supervision – certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants

The bill authorizes a general X-ray machine operator to perform radiologic procedures under the direct supervision of a certified nurse practitioner or physician assistant. At present, an operator may do so only under the direct supervision of a physician, podiatrist, mechanotherapist, or chiropractor.[2]

Under existing law, direct supervision does not require the supervising practitioner to observe each radiologic procedure the general X-ray machine operator performs, but does require the practitioner to be present at the location where procedures are performed for purposes of consulting with and directing the operator.

Occupational health nursing services – physician supervision

Current law authorizes a general X-ray machine operator who (1) is licensed by the Ohio Board of Nursing as a registered nurse and (2) provides occupational health nursing services in an industrial workplace to perform radiologic procedures under a physician's general supervision. The bill clarifies that a registered nurse who also is a certified nurse practitioner is not subject to a requirement to be supervised.[3] Note that existing law requires a certified nurse practitioner to hold two licenses issued by the Board of Nursing – an advanced practice registered nurse license and a registered nurse license.[4]

Licensing examination

The bill establishes an additional exception to the requirement that an applicant for a general X-ray machine operator license pass the licensing examination administered by ODH or an entity under contract with ODH – that the applicant has successfully passed the anatomy modules examination offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists for the applicant's intended practice area in a limited scope of practice in radiology.[5]

Current law already provides for an exception from the general X-ray machine operator licensing examination requirement – that the applicant is certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or American Chiropractic Registry of Radiologic Technologists.[6]

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[2] R.C. 4773.06(A).

[3] R.C. 4773.06(C).

[4] R.C. 4723.41 and 4723.42, neither section in the bill.

[5] R.C. 4773.03(B)(2) and (C)(2).

[6] R.C. 4773.03(C)(1). Existing law includes another exception to the licensing examination requirement for any license issued by ODH under R.C. Chapter 4773 – that the applicant holds an ODH-issued conditional license and has completed continuing education requirements established in ODH rules. See R.C. 4773.03(C)(5) and 4773.05, not in the bill. This exception appears to be obsolete as the dates during which the conditional license remains valid under statutory law have passed. An amendment may be prepared by LSC staff to address this exception.

Radiation technician – unauthorized practice

The bill exempts the following from the law prohibiting practice as a general X-ray machine operator, radiographer, radiation therapy technologist, or nuclear medicine technologist without holding an ODH-issued license to practice as such:

- Certified nurse practitioners;
- Physician assistants;
- Nursing and physician assistant students engaging in activities performed by basic X-ray machine operators, radiographers, radiation therapy technologists, and nuclear medicine technologists as an integral part of a program of study leading to receipt of a license.[7]

This provision mirrors the existing law exemption for physicians, podiatrists, mechanotherapists, chiropractors, and students.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-10-25
Reported, S. Health	06-10-26
Passed Senate (33-0)	06-10-26

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[7] R.C. 4773.02(B)(1) and (4).