IN THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

SENATE BILL NO. 496

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1992, Republic Act 7431 was enacted in order to regulate the practice of radiologic technology in the Philippines. Through the law, the government sought to protect the public from hazards posed by radiation as well as to ensure safe and proper diagnosis, treatment, and research through the application of machines and/or equipment using radiation.

In order to uphold such policy, RA 7431 created the Board of Radiologic Technology composed of three (3) radiologic technologists, one (1) radiologist, and one (1) medical physicist.

However, including a radiologist and a medical physicist in the board defeats the intent of the law. Under the law, a radiologist is a licensed physician who specializes in the diagnosis or treatment of diseases with the use of radiation while a medical physicist specializes in the application of the principles and techniques of physics in medicine. These are entirely different from those who practice radiologic technology-related professions. Whereas this specific technology is an auxiliary branch of radiology which deals with the application of radio frequency rays in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, this set up does not call for representation of radiologists and medical physicists to the Board.

This proposed measure then seeks to address this loophole in the law by excluding the radiologist and medical physicist from the Board of Radiologic Technology. Also, the bill changes the scope of examinations in radiologic and x-ray technologist to more practical subjects with their corresponding weights also modified.

In view of the foregoing, passage of the bill is earnestly sought.

JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator
INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT
TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF R.A. 7431, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Paragraphs (f) and (g) of section 3 of RA 7431 are hereby deleted and paragraphs (h) and (i) of the same Section are correspondingly renumbered as (f) and (g) as follows:

"Section 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) x x x
(b) x x x
(c) x x x
(d) x x x
(e) x x x

[(f) "Radiologist" is a licensed physician who specializes in the diagnosis or treatment of disease with the use of radiations;

(g) "Medical Physicist" is a physicist who specializes in the application of the principles and techniques of physics in medicine;]

[(h)] (f) "Board refers to the Board of Radiologic Technology; and

[(i)] (g) "Commission" refers to the Professional Regulation Commission created under Presidential Decree No. 223."

SECTION 2. Section 6 of RA 7431 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 6. Creation of the Board of Radiologic Technology. - There is hereby created a Board of Radiologic Technology which shall be composed of a chairman and four (4) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Professional Regulation Commission. The Commission shall recommend [three (3)] FIVE (5) radiologic technologists from a list to be submitted by the association of radiologic technologists; [one (1) radiologist from a list to be submitted by the association of radiologists; and one (1) medical physicist from a list to be submitted by the association of medical physicists:] Provided, however, That the said association is accredited in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 223: Provided, further, That each person whose name is submitted shall possess the qualifications prescribed in Section 7 of this Act."

SECTION 3. Section 7 of RA 7431 is hereby amended to read as follows:
"Section 7. Qualification of Board Members.

(a) xxx
   (1) xxx
   (2) xxx
   (3) xxx
   (4) xxx

(b) xxx
   (1) xxx
   (2) Have at least ten (10) years practice as radiologic technologists prior to their appointment: Provided, That the [three (3)] FIVE (5) radiologic technologists appointed as members of the first board shall be deemed automatically registered as radiologic technologists upon assumption of their duties as members.

(c) One (1) member of the Board shall at the time of his appointment:
   (1) Be a radiologist; and
   (2) Has at least ten (10) years practice as a radiologist prior to his appointment.

(d) One (1) member of the Board shall at the time of his Appointment:
   (1) Be a medical physicist; and
   (2) Has at least ten (10) years practice as a medical physicist."

SECTION 4. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (g) of section 20 of RA 7431 are hereby and substituted to read as follows:

Section 20. Scope of Examination in X-ray Technology. Unless changed or modified by the Board, the examination in x-ray technology shall cover the following subjects with the corresponding weighs as follows:

[(a) x x x
(b) x x x
(c) x x x
(d) x x x
(e) x x x
(f) x x x
(g) x x x

(a) Image Production and Evaluation
   Photochemistry and Darkroom Procedures, Radiographic Technique and Film Analysis .................................................. 25%
(b) Patient Care & Management
   Anatomy, Physiology & Medical Terminology, Nursing Procedures, Department Administration Ethics with Jurisprudence ................................................................. 25%
(c) Radiographic Procedures and Techniques
   Radiographic Positioning, Special Procedures with And without Contrast Media ......................................................... 25%
(d) Physics of Diagnostic Radiation and Protection
   Radiation Physics, Radiobiology and Radiation Protection and Equipment Maintenance .............................................. 25%

SECTION 5. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (i) & (j) of Section 2 are hereby deleted and substituted and amended to read as follows:
Section 21. Scope of Examination in Radiologic Technology. Unless
changed or modified by the Board, the examination in radiologic technology shall
cover the following subjects with the corresponding weights as follows:

(a) Image Production and Evaluation
   Photochemistry and Darkroom Procedures, Radiographic
   Technique and Film Analysis ........................................... 20%
(b) Patient Care & Management
   Anatomy, Physiology & Medical Terminology, Nursing
   Procedures, Department Administration Ethics with
   Jurisprudence .................................................................... 20%
(c) Radiographic Procedures and Techniques
   Radiographic Positioning, Special Procedures with
   And without Contrast Media ........................................... 20%
(d) Physics of Diagnostic Radiation and Protection
   Radiation Physics, Radiobiology and Radiation
   Protection and Equipment Maintenance ................................ 25%
(e) Radiological Sciences
   Ultrasound, Radiation Therapy, Nuclear Medicine
   Radiologic Pathology, Computed Tomography, Magnetic
   Resonance Imaging, Digital Subtraction Angiography ............ 20%

ALL SUCCESSFUL EXAMINEES IN THE X-RAY TECHNOLOGY
EXAMINATION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TAKE THE X-RAY TECHNOLOGY
SUBJECTS WHICH ARE ENUMERATED IN SECTION 20, BUT MUST TAKE
ONLY THE RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY SUBJECTS SUCH AS:

A) ULTRASOUND .................................................. 20%
B) RADIATION THERAPY ........................................ 20%
C) NUCLEAR MEDICINE .................................. 15%
D) RADIOLOGIC PATHOLOGY ....................... 15%
E) COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY ..................... 15%
F) MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING .............. 15%

SECTION 6. Section 22 of RA 7431 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 22. Report of Ratings. The Board shall, within [one hundred
twenty (120)] A PERIOD OF TEN (10) days after the date of completion of the
examination, report the rating obtained by each candidate to the Commission
which shall submit such report to the President of the Philippines for approval.

   x x x
   x x x."
SECTION 7. Paragraph (g) of Section 26 of RA 7431 is hereby added to read as follows:

"Section 26. Penal Provisions. Any person who shall practice radiologic technology and x-ray technology in the Philippines, within the meaning of this Act, with any of the following attending circumstances shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished with a fine of not less than Ten thousand Pesos (10,000.00) nor more than Forty Thousand Pesos (P40,000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years, or both at the discretion of the court:

(a) x x x
(b) x x x
(c) x x x
(d) x x x
(e) x x x
(f) x x x
(g) FAILURE ON HIS PART TO BE A MEMBER OF AN APO."

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, and other issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,