

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Dever

Representatives Beadle, Weisz

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 43-62-01, 43-62-02, 43-62-03, 43-62-04,  
2 43-62-08, 43-62-09, 43-62-11, 43-62-14, 43-62-15, and 43-62-18, and subsection 13 of section  
3 43-62-19 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the regulation of medical imaging and  
4 radiation therapy; and to declare an emergency.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **43-62-01. Definitions.**

9 As used in this chapter:

- 10 1. "Board" means the North Dakota medical imaging and radiation therapy board of  
11 examiners.
- 12 2. "Certification organization" means a national certification organization that specializes  
13 in the certification and registration of ~~certification~~ of medical imaging and radiation  
14 therapy technical personnel and which has programs accredited by the national  
15 commission for certifying agencies, American national standards institute or the  
16 international organization for standardization, or other accreditation organization  
17 recognized by the board.
- 18 3. "Licensed practitioner" means a licensed physician, advanced practice registered  
19 nurse, ~~surgeon~~, chiropractor, dentist, or podiatrist.
- 20 4. "Licensee" means an individual licensed by the board to perform medical imaging or  
21 radiation therapy ~~procedures and operate medical imaging or radiation therapy~~  
22 ~~equipment, including a nuclear medicine technologist, radiation therapist,~~  
23 ~~radiographer, radiologist assistant, or sonographer~~within the scope of practice of an  
24 identified medical imaging and radiation therapy modality.

- 1           5. "Medical imaging" means the performance of any diagnostic or interventional  
2           procedure or operation of medical imaging equipment intended for use in the  
3           diagnosis or visualization of disease or other medical conditions in human beings,  
4           including magnetic resonance imaging, fluoroscopy, nuclear medicine, sonography, or  
5           x-rays.
- 6           6. "Medical physicist" means an individual who is certified by the American board of  
7           radiology, American board of medical physics, American board of science in nuclear  
8           medicine, or Canadian college of physics in medicine in radiological physics or one of  
9           the subspecialties of radiological physics.
- 10          7. "Protected health information" has the same meaning as provided under section  
11          23-01.3-01.
- 12          8. "Radiation therapy" means the performance of any procedure or operation of radiation  
13          therapy equipment intended for use in the treatment of disease or other medical  
14          conditions in human beings.
- 15          ~~8.9.~~ "Radiation therapist" means ~~a nonphysician licensed by the board to perform radiation~~  
16          ~~therapy~~an individual, other than a licensed practitioner or authorized user, who  
17          performs procedures and operate~~applies ionizing radiation therapy equipment emitted~~  
18          from x-ray machines, particle accelerators, or sealed radioactive sources to human  
19          beings for therapeutic purposes.

20           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21           amended and reenacted as follows:

22           **43-62-02. License required.**

23           ~~After December 31, 2015, an~~An individual may not perform or offer to perform medical  
24           imaging or radiation therapy ~~procedures~~ on humans for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes ~~as~~  
25           ~~defined in this chapter~~ or otherwise indicate or imply that the individual is licensed to perform  
26           medical imaging or radiation therapy unless that individual is licensed under this chapter.

27           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
28           amended and reenacted as follows:

29           **43-62-03. Exemptions.**

30           This chapter does not apply to the following:

- 31           1. A licensed practitioner performing medical imaging or radiation therapy.

- 1        2.    A dental assistant or dental hygienist licensed under chapter 43-20.
- 2        3.    A student enrolled in and attending a school or college of medicine, medical imaging,
- 3                    or radiation therapy who performs medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures on
- 4                    humans while under the supervision of a licensed practitioner or a radiographer,
- 5                    radiation therapist, nuclear medicine technologist, radiologist assistant, or
- 6                    sonographer holding a license in the medical imaging or radiation therapy modality for
- 7                    which the student is enrolled or attending ~~under this chapter~~.
- 8        4.    An individual administering medical imaging or radiation ~~procedures~~therapy and who
- 9                    is employed by the United States government when performing duties associated with
- 10                   that employment.
- 11       5.    A nurse licensed under chapter 43-12.1 who performs sonography on a focused
- 12                   imaging target to assess specific and limited information about a patient's immediate
- 13                   medical condition or to provide real-time visual guidance for another procedure.
- 14       6.    A limited x-ray machine operator who meets the requirements of rules adopted by the
- 15                   state department of health under section 23-20.1-04.
- 16       7.    Medical imaging performed as a part of a post-mortem examination or on other
- 17                   nonliving remains.
- 18       8.    Medical imaging performed by emergency medical services personnel certified or
- 19                   licensed under section 23-27-04.3.

20        **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22        **43-62-04. North Dakota medical imaging and radiation therapy board of examiners.**

- 23       1.    The governor shall appoint a ~~state board of North Dakota~~ medical imaging and
- 24                   radiation therapy ~~medical examiners~~board consisting of nine members including:
  - 25           a.    Five medical imaging or radiation therapy professionals, one each from the areas
  - 26                    of radiography, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine technology, sonography, and
  - 27                    medical imaging or radiation therapy education;
  - 28           b.    One radiologist;
  - 29           c.    One medical physicist;
  - 30           d.    One physician from a rural area; and
  - 31           e.    One public member.

- 1       2. Each medical imaging or radiation therapy member of the board must:
  - 2           a. Be a practicing medical imaging or radiation therapy licensee of integrity and
  - 3           ability.
  - 4           b. Be a resident of and currently licensed in the member's medical imaging or
  - 5           radiation therapy modality in this state.
  - 6           c. Be currently certified by a ~~nationally recognized~~ certification organization in the
  - 7           member's medical imaging or radiation therapy modality.
  - 8           d. Have been engaged in the active practice of the medical imaging or radiation
  - 9           therapy profession within this state for a period of at least five years.
- 10       3. Each public member of the board must:
  - 11           a. Be a resident of this state.
  - 12           b. Be at least twenty-one years of age.
  - 13           c. Not be affiliated with any group or profession that provides or regulates health
  - 14           care.
- 15       4. The radiologist, medical physicist, and physician members of the board must:
  - 16           a. Be a practicing radiologist, medical physicist, or physician of integrity and ability.
  - 17           b. Be a resident of and be licensed to practice as a physician or registered as a
  - 18           medical physicist in this state.
- 19       5. An individual appointed to the board shall qualify by taking the oath required of civil
- 20       officers.

21       **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23       **43-62-08. Meetings of the board.**

24       The board shall hold at least two meetings each year to conduct business and to review the  
25 standards and rules for improving the administration of medical imaging or radiation therapy  
26 procedures. The board shall establish the procedures for calling, holding, and conducting  
27 regular and special meetings. A majority of board members constitutes a quorum.

28       **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

30       **43-62-09. Powers of the board.**

31       In addition to any other powers, the board may:

Sixty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1        1. Administer this chapter.
- 2        2. Issue interpretations of this chapter.
- 3        3. Adopt rules as may be necessary to carry out this chapter.
- 4        4. Employ and fix the compensation of personnel the board determines necessary to
- 5        carry into effect this chapter and incur other expenses necessary to effectuate this
- 6        chapter.
- 7        5. Issue, renew, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses and carry out any disciplinary actions
- 8        authorized by this chapter.
- 9        6. Set fees for licensure, license renewal, and other services deemed necessary to carry
- 10       out the purposes of this chapter.
- 11       7. Conduct investigations for the purpose of determining whether violations of this
- 12       chapter or grounds for disciplining licensees exist. The board may establish an
- 13       investigative panel to conduct an investigation under this subsection.
- 14       8. Develop standards and adopt rules for the improvement of the administration of
- 15       medical imaging or radiation therapy ~~procedures~~ in this state.
- 16       9. Employ or contract with one or more certification organizations known to provide
- 17       acceptable examinations leading to certification of technical personnel performing
- 18       medical imaging or radiation therapy ~~procedures~~.
- 19       10. Impose sanctions, deny licensure, levy fines, or seek appropriate civil or criminal
- 20       penalties against anyone who violates or attempts to violate examination security,
- 21       anyone who obtains or attempts to obtain licensure by fraud or deception, or anyone
- 22       who knowingly assists in that type of activity.
- 23       11. Require information on an applicant's or licensee's fitness, qualifications, and previous
- 24       professional record and performance from recognized data sources, licensing and
- 25       disciplinary authorities of other jurisdictions, certification organizations, professional
- 26       education and training institutions, liability insurers, health care institutions, or other
- 27       employers, and law enforcement agencies be reported to the board. The board or its
- 28       investigative panels may require an applicant for licensure or a licensee who is the
- 29       subject of a disciplinary investigation to submit to a statewide and nationwide criminal
- 30       history record check. The nationwide criminal history record check must be conducted

1 in the manner provided by section 12-60-24. All costs associated with the criminal  
2 history record check are the responsibility of the licensee or applicant.

3 12. Require the self-reporting by an applicant or a licensee of any information the board  
4 determines may indicate possible deficiencies in practice, performance, fitness, or  
5 qualifications.

6 13. Establish a mechanism for dealing with a licensee who abuses or is dependent upon  
7 or addicted to alcohol or other addictive chemical substances, and enter an agreement  
8 with a professional organization possessing relevant procedures and techniques the  
9 board has evaluated and approved for the organization's cooperation or participation.

10 14. Issue a cease and desist order, obtain a court order, or an injunction to halt unlicensed  
11 practice, a violation of this chapter, or a violation of the rules of the board.

12 15. Issue a conditional, restricted, or otherwise circumscribed license as the board  
13 determines necessary.

14 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **43-62-11. Records of the board.**

17 The board shall keep a record of its proceedings and applications for licensure. An  
18 application record must be preserved for at least six years beyond the disposition of the  
19 application or the last annual registration of the licensee, whichever is later. Protected health  
20 information in the board's possession is an exempt record.

21 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **43-62-14. License requirements.**

24 1. The board ~~may~~shall issue a license to ~~anya~~qualified applicant ~~who has submitted.~~ In  
25 order to qualify for licensure an applicant shall comply with the modality licensure  
26 requirements under subsection 2, shall comply with board requirements adopted by  
27 rule, and shall submit satisfactory evidence, verified by oath or affirmation, that the  
28 applicant:

29 a. At the time of the application is at least eighteen years of age.

- 1           b. Has successfully completed a four-year course of study in a secondaryhigh  
2           school ~~approved by the state board of higher education~~ or passed an approved  
3           equivalency test.
- 4           2. ~~In addition to the requirements of subsection 1~~To qualify for licensure, an individual  
5           ~~seeking to obtain a license~~applicant shall meet the requirements for a specific modality  
6           of medical imaging or radiation therapy ~~shall comply with the following requirements,~~  
7           including:
- 8           a. Provide satisfactory completion of a course of study ~~inappropriate for the~~  
9           specified modality, such as radiography, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine  
10          technology, radiologist assistant, or sonography, or its equivalent to be  
11          determined by the board. The curriculum for each course of study may not be  
12          less stringent than the standards approved by the joint review committee on  
13          education in radiologic technology, joint review committee on nuclear medicine  
14          technology, commission on accreditation of allied health education programs, or  
15          any other appropriate accreditation agency approved by the board, provided the  
16          standards are not in conflict with board policy.
- 17          b. Pass a certification examination established or approved by the board given by a  
18          certification organization recognized by the board.
- 19          c. Show evidence of compliance with continuing education or recertification  
20          requirements required for registration of certification by a certification  
21          organization recognized by the board.
- 22          3. The board may establish by rule specific changes or exceptions for those modalities in  
23          which the accreditation agency or certification organization differs in certification or  
24          registration requirements from subsection 2.
- 25          4. ~~The board, upon application and payment of proper fees,~~ may grant a license to an  
26          ~~individual~~applicant who submits the necessary application and fees who has been  
27          licensed, certified, or registered to perform or administer medical imaging or radiation  
28          therapy ~~procedures~~ in another jurisdiction if that jurisdiction's standards of licensure  
29          are substantially equivalent to those provided in this chapter in accordance with rules  
30          adopted by the board.

1        5. On a case-by-case basis, the board may establish unique individualized licensing and  
2        practice standards and requirements for an applicant who does not meet the licensure  
3        requirements to receive a license in one or more modalities of medical imaging or  
4        radiation therapy. This subsection is limited to an applicant who was practicing at a  
5        critical access hospital before January 1, 2017. Under this subsection, standards and  
6        requirements the board requires of a licensee must be designed to maintain  
7        reasonable services and public safety at a critical access hospital. A license granted  
8        under this subsection does not grant the licensee the privilege to practice outside a  
9        critical access hospital. A license granted under this subsection expires and may not  
10       be renewed if the licensee attains a full license in the applicable modality.

11       **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13       **43-62-15. Scope of practice.**

- 14       1. A license issued by the board under this chapter must specify the medical imaging or  
15       radiation therapy modality for which the licensee is qualified to practice.
- 16       2. The board shall ~~establish~~adopt by rule licensure standards for the following medical  
17       imaging and radiation therapy modalities, including:
- 18       a. Nuclear medicine technologist~~;~~  
19       b. Radiation therapist~~;~~  
20       c. Radiographer~~;~~  
21       d. Radiologist assistant~~;~~ and  
22       e. Sonographer.
- 23       ~~2.3.~~ An individual holding a license under this chapter may performA licensee's  
24       performance of medical imaging or radiation therapy ~~procedures~~ on humans for  
25       diagnostic or therapeutic purposes ~~only~~must be by written, facsimile, electronic, or  
26       verbal prescription of an individual authorized by this state to prescribe medical  
27       imaging or radiation therapy ~~procedures~~ and must be under the supervision of a  
28       licensed practitioner.
- 29       ~~3.4.~~ An individual holding a license under this chapter may performA licensee's  
30       performance of medical imaging and radiation therapy ~~procedures~~ on humans for  
31       diagnostic or therapeutic purposes ~~only~~within is limited to the scope of the medical



1           imaging and radiation therapy modality of that license as specified under the rules  
2           adopted by the board.

3           **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-62-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5           **43-62-18. Disciplinary action.**

6           1. The board may take disciplinary action against a licensee by any of the following  
7           means:

8           1. a. Revocation of license.

9           2. b. Suspension of license.

10          3. c. Probation.

11          4. d. Imposition of stipulations, limitations, or conditions relating to the performance of  
12           medical imaging or radiation therapy ~~procedures~~.

13          5. e. Letter of censure.

14          6. f. Imposition of a penalty, not to exceed one thousand dollars for any single  
15           disciplinary action.

16          2. Any fines collected by the board must be deposited in the state general fund.

17          3. Payment of the board's expenses, including legal fees, may be deposited in the  
18           board's operating fund.

19          **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 13 of section 43-62-19 of the North Dakota  
20 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21          13. The failure to maintain in good standing, including completion of continuing education  
22           or recertification requirements, a certification from a ~~nationally-recognized~~ certification  
23           organization recognized by the board for the medical imaging or radiation therapy  
24           modality for which a license has been issued by the board.

25          **SECTION 12. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.