

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 511

Introduced by Assembly Member Chen

February 10, 2025

An act to add Section 114876 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to radiologist assistants.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 511, as introduced, Chen. Radiologist assistants.

Existing law, the Radiologic Technology Act, prohibits a person from administering or using diagnostic or therapeutic X-rays on human beings in this state, unless that person either qualifies for a specified exemption or has been certified or granted a permit by the State Department of Public Health, as specified, is acting within the scope of that certification or permit, and is acting under the supervision of a healing arts licensee. A person who violates a provision of the Radiologic Technology Act or regulation of the department adopted pursuant to that act is guilty of a misdemeanor.

This bill would prohibit a person from holding themselves out as a radiologist assistant unless the person meets certain requirements, including that they have passed the radiologist assistant examination, as specified, and that they maintain current registration with prescribed entities. The bill would require a radiologist assistant to work only under the supervision of a radiologist and would prohibit a radiologist assistant from functioning in that capacity independent of a supervising radiologist. The bill, among other things, would authorize a radiologist assistant to communicate and document initial clinical and imaging observations or procedures only to a radiologist for the radiologist’s use. The bill would authorize a supervising radiologist to delegate to a

radiologist assistant, as the radiologist determines appropriate to the assistant's competence, those tasks or services that a radiologist usually performs and is qualified to perform. The bill would provide that a violation of its provisions does not constitute a misdemeanor.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The radiologist assistant is an advanced-level radiographer
4 who has completed a nationally recognized radiologists assistant
5 educational program and successfully completed a nationally
6 recognized certification examination for radiologist assistants.

7 (b) Radiologist assistants are an extension of a radiologist and
8 work under the supervision of a radiologist, as part of a
9 radiologist-led team, performing medical imaging procedures
10 within the scope of practice that the radiologist assistant is
11 educationally prepared, clinically competent, and delegated by a
12 radiologist to perform.

13 (c) Radiologist assistants do not hold the responsibility of
14 diagnosing illnesses; however, radiologist assistants assist a
15 radiologist by completing patient history, describing procedures,
16 performing medical imaging procedures, and communicating initial
17 clinical and imaging observations or procedure details only to the
18 supervising radiologist for the radiologist's use.

19 (d) Radiologist assistants work in hospitals, outpatient facilities,
20 or diagnostic imaging centers. Radiologist assistants work only
21 under the supervision and delegation of a radiologist.

22 SEC. 2. Section 114876 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
23 to read:

24 114876. (a) No person shall hold themselves out to be a
25 radiologist assistant, or use the title of "radiologist assistant," or
26 any other term, to imply or to suggest that the person is a
27 radiologist assistant, unless the person meets all of the following
28 requirements:

29 (1) The person has passed the radiologist assistant examination
30 administered by the American Registry of Radiologic
31 Technologists, the radiology practitioner assistant examination

1 administered by the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner
2 Assistants, or another examination offered by a successor or
3 comparable entity that has been determined by the department to
4 evaluate the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure the
5 protection of the public and has been approved by the department.

6 (2) The person maintains current registration with the American
7 Registry of Radiologic Technologists, the Certification Board for
8 Radiology Practitioner Assistants, or a successor or comparable
9 entity.

10 (3) The person is certified or permitted to conduct radiologic
11 technology in this state or possesses a radiologist assistant license
12 from another state that licenses radiologist assistants.

13 (b) A radiologist assistant shall work only under the supervision
14 of a radiologist. A radiologist assistant shall not function in their
15 capacity as a radiologist assistant independent of a supervising
16 radiologist.

17 (c) A radiologist assistant shall not interpret images, make
18 diagnoses, or prescribe medications or therapies.

19 (d) A radiologist assistant may administer prescribed drugs only
20 as directed by a supervising radiologist or their designee.

21 (e) (1) A radiologist assistant may communicate and document
22 initial clinical and imaging observations or procedures only to a
23 radiologist for the radiologist's use.

24 (2) A radiologist assistant may communicate a supervising
25 radiologist's report to an appropriate health care provider consistent
26 with the American College of Radiology guideline for
27 communicating diagnostic imaging findings.

28 (f) A supervising radiologist may delegate to a radiologist
29 assistant, as the radiologist determines appropriate to the radiologist
30 assistant's competence, those tasks or services that a radiologist
31 usually performs and is qualified to perform.

32 (g) This section shall not be construed to eliminate, or in any
33 way affect, any existing duties for a radiologic technologist or any
34 existing requirements for the supervision of a radiologic
35 technologist.

36 (h) A violation of this section shall not constitute a misdemeanor
37 under subdivision (a) of Section 107075.

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