

House Bill 434

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Newton of the 127th, Dempsey of the 13th, DeLoach of the 167th, Bennett of the 94th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the Georgia Composite Medical Board, so as to provide for the licensing of
3 radiologist assistants; to provide for definitions; to provide for powers and responsibilities
4 of the board; to provide that radiologists may use the services of licensed radiologist
5 assistants; to prohibit certain practices by radiologist assistants; to provide for related
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
10 Georgia Composite Medical Board, is amended by revising Code Section 43-34-12, relating
11 to the definition of a radiologist assistant, as follows:

12 "43-34-12.

13 (a) ~~For purposes of this chapter~~ As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'License' means a license to practice as a radiologist assistant pursuant to this Code
15 section.

(2) 'Radiologist' means a physician who is licensed to practice medicine pursuant to Article 2 of this chapter and who is certified by the American Board of Radiology, the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology, or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

(3) 'Radiologist 'radiologist assistant' means an advanced level certified diagnostic radiologic technologist who assists radiologists under levels of supervision defined by the Georgia Composite Medical Board in performing advanced diagnostic imaging procedures as determined by board rule, including, but not limited to, enteral and parenteral procedures when performed under the direction of the supervising radiologist and may include injecting diagnostic agents to sites other than intravenous, performing diagnostic aspirations and localizations, and assisting radiologists with other invasive procedures.

~~(b) This Code section is for definitional purposes only and shall not be construed to require any duties or obligations regarding radiology assistants that did not already exist as of June 30, 2009.~~

(b) The board shall establish criteria for licensure and renewal of licensure as a radiologist assistant pursuant to this Code section. Such criteria shall include evidence that the applicant:

(1) Is registered and credentialed as a radiographer with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists; and

(2) Is certified and registered:

(A) As a radiologist assistant with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists;
or

(B) As a radiology practitioner assistant with the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants.

(c) The board shall have the power and responsibility to:

(1) License and regulate the practice of radiologist assistants in accordance with the provisions of this Code section; and

(2) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations necessary to enable it to discharge its functions and enforce the provisions of this Code section, which shall include, but shall not be limited to:

(A) Qualifications for licensure for radiologist assistants;

(B) Scope of practice of radiologist assistants;

(C) Supervision of radiologist assistants;

(D) Identification of radiologist assistants;

(E) Grounds for disciplinary actions and discipline of radiologist assistants; and

(F) Establishment of reasonable fees for licensure and license renewals for radiologist assistants.

Such rules and regulations adopted by the board pertaining to the scope of practice and the educational qualifications necessary to practice as a radiologist assistant in this state shall be consistent with guidelines adopted by the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, or any other entity deemed appropriate by the board.

(d) A radiologist may use the services of a radiologist assistant under the supervision of such radiologist, provided that such radiologist assistant is duly qualified and licensed pursuant to this Code section.

(e) A radiologist assistant shall not interpret images, make diagnoses, or prescribe medications or therapies."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.