



Legislative Background Brief

for the
Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Updated October 2013

Board of Radiologic Technologists

Prepared by Pat Murdo, Legislative Research Analyst, with help from the Business Standards Division

Board = 7 members (term expiration in parentheses)

<p>Licensed radiologic technologists registered with the American registry of radiologic technologists = 4 <i>(includes 1 radiology-level assistant)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kelli Bush, Butte (7/1/2015) -Sharlett Dale, Harlowton (7/1/2015) -Charles McCubbins, Shelby (7/1/2014) -Mike Nielsen, Billings (radiology practitioner assistant and radiology technologist (7/1/2016)) 	<p>Radiologist licensed to practice medicine in Montana = 1 Jesse Cole, Butte radiologist (7/1/2014)</p> <hr/> <p>Person with permit issued under 37-14-306 (either qualified but unlicensed X-ray tech or temporary permit holder) = 1 Anna Hazen, Fort Benton (7/1/2014)</p> <hr/> <p>Public member = 1 Sharon Dinstel, Colstrip (7/1/2014)</p>
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Number of Licensees	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY2012
- Total	1,391	1,418	1,422	1,348

Licensing Fees (since 2008)

Application fee (includes temporary permit if requested)	\$60
Original license fee	\$30
Renewal fee	\$50

Revenues FY2009-FY2012 and Expenditures for FY 2009-2012

	Revenues		Expenditures	
	Licensing	Other	Personal Services	Operating
FY 2009	\$79,572		\$85,483	
FY 2010	\$81,185		\$92,432	
FY 2011	\$80,325		\$88,471	
FY 2012	\$81,050		\$109,139	
FY 2015 biennium*	--		\$221,484	

*Appropriation Authority In House Bill 2

Expenditures, FY 2012	Direct	Indirect
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		Admin	Div. IT/Bureau	Compliance	Bureau
Personal Services, incl. per diem	\$50,177	\$6,063	\$2,909	\$1,330	\$1,798
Operating Expenses					
Consulting, Printing, IT, Other	\$19,270			\$1,685	
Supplies, incl. Computer	\$2,399			\$938	
Postage, mailing, IT network, voice srv	\$2,056			\$767	
Travel/Per Diem for Board Members	\$1,976				
Rent and other expenses*	\$5,086			\$7,064	
Legal and hearings	\$5,623				
Total (may be affected by rounding)	\$86,587			\$22,554	

*Includes sq. footage rent of \$2,098, computer and office equipment repair of \$93, dues, education & training, and fee collection expense for \$2,894 for direct expenses and pro-rated meeting room and computer/equipment repairs of \$17, DLI OIT expense of \$2,338, and indirect agency of \$4,708 for indirect expenses.

Number of Complaints

FY 09	8
FY 10	3
FY 11	6
FY 12	7

Disciplinary Action (may be from other years)

Dismissed 7, Other Sanctions 2, Investigations 2
Dismissed 3, Investigations 2
Dismissed 3, Other Sanctions 1, Investigations 2
Dismissed 5, Closed 2

Scope of Practice

A radiologic technologist, as defined in 37-14-102, MCA, is allowed to perform diagnostic x-ray procedures on persons and the following functions in connection with the diagnostic procedure: "(a) operates x-ray equipment to reveal the internal condition of patients for the diagnosis of fractures, diseases, and other injuries; (b) prepares and positions patients for x-ray procedures; (c) selects the proper radiographic technique for visualization of specific internal structures of the human body; (d) selects the proper ancillary equipment to be used in the x-ray procedure to enhance the visualization of the desired structure; (e) prepares film processing solutions and develops or processes the exposed x-ray film; and (f) inspects, maintains, and performs minor repairs to x-ray equipment".

2013 Legislation Impacting Board or Profession

- Possibly SB 183 and its counterpart, HB 259, regarding recognition of military training by professional and occupational licensing boards.

Summary of Responses from Survey as made through June 3, 2013:

of Responses from Board of Radiologic Technologists licensees -- 24

Comments summarized separately. Respondents' *main compliment*: ability to monitor on behalf of licensees. *Main Complaint*: license fees too high. *Key comment on importance*: need to assure technicians are qualified. *Public response*: 25% saw no public health, safety, or welfare benefit.

Responses to Survey - Board of Radiologic Technologists

Total responses: 24 (of which 1 out-of-state and 4 were dual license holders)

Highest Compliment	Ability to monitor on behalf of licensees - 8 Ability to keep profession from criticism because of bad actors - 1 <i>Other:</i> - Helena Lee has always been very helpful !!		Ability to streamline Continuing Ed - 1 None - 12	
Biggest Complaint	Licensing fees too high - 4 Lack of Information - 1 Board's response to unlicensed practice - Licensing renewal timelines too strict - Regulations too strict - 1 None - 15 <i>Other:</i> --Allowing limited permit holder with minimal training(not in a regular RT school) -- Don't seem to do anything. We still have unregistered techs in Montana. -- Difficulty with the renewal website. -- Unnecessary when we are already licensed nationally, provides no more protection for patient , just \$. -- It unnecessary to pay as much as we do when we receive little to nothing from them other then a ton of regulations that they change for no apparent reason! -- This board does not apply rules equally. They require some technologists to maintain a national license yet allow others who have lost their national boards to continue to keep their Montana licenses. -- The state requirement for me is just an added expense. I already have to maintain my ARRT status, which is what MT adheres to. It makes it seem like it is for fund raising only. -- Need a clearinghouse approach to give us the sources for renewal. Board has been very flexible in acceptance of proposed credits. (comment from dual license-holder so not clear which board). -- Trying to make sure the education requirements are taken care of (comment from dual license-holder so not clear which board)			
Other reasons the board is important: - Ensure that the technologist has had the proper education (not a 16 hour weekend course) and training to take quality x-rays using the latest and safest techniques. -- I think it forces the healthcare industry to see Radiologic Technologists as medical professionals and not button pushers.-- We need to make sure that qualified licensed professionals are doing x-ray exams on the public. These people are trained in proper machine usage, radiation protection for both themselves and patients. They provide quality exams for providers to diagnose patients. - It is good to regulate occupations but make it reasonable for price or offer something to the techs other then a bunch of regulation! -- Keeps us current on changes in the profession. Many would not do continuing ed if it wasn't required (comment from dual license-holder so not clear which board).				
Public Health -	Public Welfare - 1	Public Safety - 8	None of these- 6	All or combination - 9
Scope of Practice:	Too Narrow - 3	Too Broad - 4	Just Right - 13	
Problems with own or other professions' scope of practice - None with own profession = 23 Problem with Board of Medical Examiners - 1 -- Comment regarding too broad a scope: Permit Holders should NOT be allowed in our state. The training for RT's allows poor candidates in and if they are "book" smart they pass. Many of these student can't take an x-ray! Colleges won't allow for interviewing and the result is a disgrace to our profession. -- We have limited techs, that have limited education taking X-rays. -- The board is working to narrow it down but until the new standards are in place there are a lot of technologists that still are working without a license. -- It allows technologists who are not licensed in areas such as MRI to work in those areas without certification on the national level. -- Comments regarding just right scope: -- Governed by ARRT Don't need to go beyond the scope of practice for a board. Follow ARRT rules and regulations.				
What laws/regulations have caused the most problems? -- I'd like to see the board be a bigger presence in our everyday work life. Right now the only time I hear or see anything is when it's time to send in my money. -- Just having one is unnecessary.-- The cost for nothing other than regulation. -- When there is a national license board that technologist must pass to get their Montana license what purpose does this board serve? Then they allow technologists who have lost their national board license to continue to work and maintain a Montana license. What a sham, that is simply discrimination for me to have to keep my national license while allowing others to lose their license and keep their Montana license. Would that be ok if a physician or nurse lost their national license but was able to keep their Montana license and continue to work in the state? How is that protecting patients?				

Consumer complaint filed?	No = 21
Nonlicensee comments	Saying Board of Radiologic Technologists: Necessary for Public Health - 203, Public Safety - 130, Public Welfare - 112 Some respondents marked all or a combination.