



Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Public Health and  
Minority Health Disparities

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB934 - Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and  
Radiology Assistance – Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologist**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**HGO Committee**

**What this bill does?**

This bill has been changed and amended to create a Limited Scope X-Ray Machine Operator (LXMO). Currently 34 states offer either a LXMO, limited scope license or registration, or licensure exception. A LXMO will be trained by a Maryland-licensed Radiologic Technologist to perform the following x-ray procedures in a physician office, urgent care center, or free-standing medical facility under the supervision of a certified Radiologic Technologist or a licensed physician that is on-site or able to provide immediate available direction:

1. Chest
2. Upper Extremities
3. Lower Extremities
4. Spine

Didactic training will include 115 hours to include:

1. Radiographic anatomy, procedures, and pathology
2. Digital image acquisition and display
3. Fundamentals, ethics, and laws of health care
4. Human anatomy and physiology
5. Image production and analysis
6. Imaging equipment and radiation production
7. Medical terminology
8. Patient Care

Clinical training will include 480 hours and the completion of a minimum of 5 successful competencies in each body part which comprise the procedures listed above. In order to achieve an LXMO certification, the candidate must achieve a passing score of an approved limited scope radiologic technologist examination and register with the Board of Physicians.

Furthermore, the bill requires that on or before October 1, 2028, the Board of Physicians will issue a report to the House Health and Government Operations Committee on the number of registered individuals and provide a recommendation on future actions.

### **Why do we need this bill?**

1. **Workforce Challenges:** Radiologic Technologists (RT) are #5 on the Maryland Hospital Association's occupations with the highest vacancy rates at 12.6%. Estimates are that we need of nearly 900 RTs in Maryland. This limited scope will help address this crisis.
2. **Access to Quality Care:** Due to the shortages in RTs, many of our physician offices and urgent care centers equipped with x-ray machines are not staffed with a RT. As a result, patients often need to be transferred or referred to a specialty imaging center or to a nearby emergency department. This causes delays in care and the ability to provide immediate care to patients. In many rural communities, the only access to an x-ray is by visiting a local emergency department.
3. **Reduction of ED Wait Times:** As mentioned above, too often the only source for an x-ray is the local emergency department. Patients referred to or arriving at the emergency department are subject to long wait times as patients with higher acuity are seen first. This creates a backlog in the emergency department and has a rippling effect on overall wait times.
4. **Career Pathway:** This bill will provide an opportunity for the nearly 13,000 medical assistants and other personnel working in a clinical setting in Maryland to advance their careers. The step to becoming an LXMO requires less time, money, and resources but still results in a higher paying, well respected career. This opens an opportunity for RTs to advance to more complex procedures and additional certifications such as CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine, Sonography, and Mammography.

I respectfully ask this committee for a favorable vote on **HB 934**.