

# SENATE BILL 954

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CF HB 980

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By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2013

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Board of Physicians – Authority to Issue Temporary Licenses and**  
3 **Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and**  
4 **Radiology Assistance Advisory Committee**

5 FOR the purpose of repealing the authority of the Maryland Board of Physicians to  
6 issue temporary licenses to practice radiation therapy, radiography, or nuclear  
7 medicine technology; repealing certain provisions of law referring to certain  
8 temporary licenses; reducing the number of members appointed to the  
9 Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Radiology  
10 Assistance Advisory Committee; repealing a certain defined term; altering a  
11 certain definition; making certain clarifying and technical changes; and  
12 generally relating to the Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine  
13 Technology, and Radiology Assistance Advisory Committee and the repeal of the  
14 authority of the Maryland Board of Physicians to issue temporary licenses.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Health Occupations  
17 Section 14–5B–01(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

20 BY repealing  
21 Article – Health Occupations  
22 Section 14–5B–01(e)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
26 Article – Health Occupations

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 14-5B-01(p), 14-5B-05(a) and (b), 14-5B-07, 14-5B-09, 14-5B-13,  
2 14-5B-14(a) and (c), 14-5B-15(a) through (c), and 14-5B-18.1(a)  
3 through (c)  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
7 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Health Occupations**

9 14-5B-01.

10 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 [(e) “Holder of a temporary license” means an individual who is granted a  
12 temporary license to practice radiation therapy, radiography, or nuclear medicine  
13 technology pending fulfillment of the requirements under § 14-5B-09(c) of this  
14 subtitle.]

15 (p) “Practice radiology assistance” means to practice [medical radiation  
16 technology] **RADIOGRAPHY** and to perform:

17 (1) Fluoroscopy and selected radiology procedures;

18 (2) Patient assessment; and

19 (3) Patient management.

20 14-5B-05.

21 (a) There is a Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine  
22 Technology [Advisory], and Radiology Assistance **ADVISORY** Committee within the  
23 Board.

24 (b) (1) The Committee consists of [10] **NINE** members appointed by the  
25 Board.

26 (2) Of the [10] **NINE** members:

27 (i) One shall be a licensed physician who specializes in  
28 radiology;

29 (ii) One shall be a licensed physician who specializes in  
30 radiology and who supervises a radiologist assistant;

1 (iii) One shall be a licensed physician who specializes in nuclear  
2 medicine;

3 (iv) One shall be a licensed physician who specializes in  
4 radiation oncology;

5 (v) One shall be a radiation therapist;

6 (vi) One shall be a radiographer;

7 [(vii) One shall be a radiologist assistant;]

8 [(viii) **(VII)** One shall be a nuclear medicine technologist;

9 [(ix) **(VIII)** One shall be a consumer member; and

10 [(x) **(IX)** One shall be a member of the Board.

11 14–5B–07.

12 (a) (1) A licensee [or holder of a temporary license] may only practice  
13 under the supervision of a licensed physician.

14 (2) The failure of a licensed physician to properly supervise a licensee  
15 is unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine under § 14–404(a)(3) of this title.

16 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the practice  
17 of a radiation therapist, radiographer, nuclear medicine technologist, **OR** radiologist  
18 assistant[, or holder of a temporary license] is limited to those procedures, operations,  
19 preparations, and practices listed in regulation.

20 (2) A radiologist assistant may not:

21 (i) Interpret images;

22 (ii) Make diagnoses; or

23 (iii) Prescribe medications or therapies.

24 14–5B–09.

25 (a) To qualify for a license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the  
26 requirements of this section.

27 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the applicant shall:

- 1 (1) Be of good moral character;
- 2 (2) Be at least 18 years old;
- 3 (3) Demonstrate oral and written competency in English as required  
4 by the Board; and
- 5 (4) Meet any educational, training, or examination requirements  
6 established by the Board, including:
- 7 (i) Graduation from an appropriate educational program as  
8 determined by the Board; and
- 9 (ii) Certification.
- 10 (c) To qualify for a license to practice as a radiologist assistant, an applicant  
11 shall:
- 12 (1) Be issued a general license to perform [medical radiation  
13 technology] **RADIOGRAPHY**;
- 14 (2) Complete an advanced academic program with a nationally  
15 recognized radiology curriculum that results in a baccalaureate degree, post  
16 baccalaureate certificate, or graduate degree and incorporates a radiologist–directed  
17 clinical preceptorship;
- 18 (3) Be certified in advanced cardiac life support; and
- 19 (4) Be certified as a radiologist assistant by the American Registry of  
20 Radiologic Technologists.
- 21 [(d) (1) Except for a license to practice radiology assistance, the Board may  
22 issue a temporary license to an applicant who:
- 23 (i) Except for the certification requirement, has met all of the  
24 requirements for licensure in this section; and
- 25 (ii) Is scheduled to take a national certifying examination  
26 within 3 months after graduation from an appropriate educational program.
- 27 (2) The Board shall adopt regulations governing the issuance of  
28 temporary licenses to applicants in accordance with this subsection.]
- 29 [(e) (D) Except for requirements adopted by the Board for license renewal  
30 under § 14–5B–12 of this subtitle, nothing in this subtitle may be construed to require  
31 an individual who is certified by the Board as a radiation oncology/therapy

1 technologist, medical radiation technologist, or nuclear medicine technologist as of  
2 October 1, 2008, to meet additional education, training, or examination requirements.

3 14-5B-13.

4 Unless the Board agrees to accept the surrender of a license [or temporary  
5 license], a licensee [or holder of a temporary license] may not surrender the license [or  
6 temporary license] and the license [or temporary license] may not lapse by operation  
7 of law while the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] is under investigation or  
8 while charges are pending against the licensee [or holder of a temporary license].

9 14-5B-14.

10 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14-405 of this title, the Board, on  
11 the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum may deny a license [or temporary  
12 license] to any applicant, reprimand any licensee [or holder of a temporary license],  
13 place any licensee [or holder of a temporary license] on probation, or suspend or  
14 revoke a license if the applicant OR licensee [or holder of a temporary license]:

15 (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license  
16 [or temporary license] for the applicant, licensed individual, [holder of a temporary  
17 license,] or for another;

18 (2) Fraudulently or deceptively uses a license [or temporary license];

19 (3) Is guilty of unprofessional or immoral conduct in the practice of  
20 radiation therapy, radiography, nuclear medicine technology, or radiology assistance;

21 (4) Is professionally, physically, or mentally incompetent;

22 (5) Abandons a patient;

23 (6) Is habitually intoxicated;

24 (7) Is addicted to or habitually abuses any narcotic or controlled  
25 dangerous substance as defined in § 5-101 of the Criminal Law Article;

26 (8) Provides professional services while:

27 (i) Under the influence of alcohol; or

28 (ii) Using any narcotic or controlled dangerous substance as  
29 defined in § 5-101 of the Criminal Law Article or any other drug that is in excess of  
30 therapeutic amounts or without valid medical indication;

1           (9) Promotes the sale of services, drugs, devices, appliances, or goods  
2 to a patient so as to exploit the patient for financial gain;

3           (10) Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of  
4 radiation therapy, radiography, nuclear medicine technology, or radiology assistance;

5           (11) Willfully fails to file or record any report as required under law,  
6 willfully impedes or obstructs the filing or recording of a report, or induces another to  
7 fail to file or record a report;

8           (12) Breaches patient confidentiality;

9           (13) Pays or agrees to pay any sum or provide any form of remuneration  
10 or material benefit to any person for bringing or referring a patient or accepts or  
11 agrees to accept any sum or any form of remuneration or material benefit from an  
12 individual for bringing or referring a patient;

13           (14) Knowingly makes a misrepresentation while practicing radiation  
14 therapy, radiography, nuclear medicine technology, or radiology assistance;

15           (15) Knowingly practices radiation therapy, radiography, nuclear  
16 medicine technology, or radiology assistance with an unauthorized individual or aids  
17 an unauthorized individual in the practice of radiation therapy, radiography, nuclear  
18 medicine technology, or radiology assistance;

19           (16) Offers, undertakes, or agrees to cure or treat disease by a secret  
20 method, treatment, or medicine;

21           (17) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or is  
22 convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or is disciplined by any  
23 branch of the United States uniformed services or the Veterans' Administration for an  
24 act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary  
25 statutes;

26           (18) Fails to meet appropriate standards for the delivery of quality  
27 radiation therapy, radiography, nuclear medicine technology, or radiology assistance  
28 care performed in any outpatient surgical facility, office, hospital or related  
29 institution, or any other location in this State;

30           (19) Knowingly submits false statements to collect fees for which  
31 services are not provided;

32           (20) (i) Has been subject to investigation or disciplinary action by a  
33 licensing or disciplinary authority or by a court of any state or country for an act that  
34 would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes; and

35           (ii) The licensed individual:

1                                   1.     Surrendered the license issued by the state or  
2 country; or

3                                   2.     Allowed the license issued by the state or country to  
4 expire or lapse;

5                                   (21)   Knowingly fails to report suspected child abuse in violation of §  
6 5–704 of the Family Law Article;

7                                   (22)   Sells, prescribes, gives away, or administers drugs for illegal or  
8 illegitimate medical purposes;

9                                   (23)   Practices or attempts to practice beyond the authorized scope of  
10 practice;

11                                  (24)   Refuses, withholds from, denies, or discriminates against an  
12 individual with regard to the provision of professional services for which the licensee  
13 [or holder of a temporary license] is licensed and qualified to render because the  
14 individual is HIV positive;

15                                  (25)   Practices or attempts to practice a radiation therapy, radiography,  
16 nuclear medicine technology, or radiology assistance procedure or uses radiation  
17 therapy, radiography, nuclear medicine technology, or radiology assistance equipment  
18 if the applicant or licensee [or holder of a temporary license] has not received  
19 education, internship, training, or experience in the performance of the procedure or  
20 the use of the equipment;

21                                  (26)   Fails to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the  
22 Board; or

23                                  (27)   Fails to practice under the supervision of a physician or violates a  
24 supervisory order of a supervising physician.

25                                  (c)   (1)   On the filing of certified docket entries with the Board by the  
26 Office of the Attorney General, the Board shall order the suspension of a licensee [or  
27 holder of a temporary license] if the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] is  
28 convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere with respect to a crime involving moral  
29 turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the  
30 conviction or plea set aside.

31                                  (2)   After completion of the appellate process if the conviction has not  
32 been reversed or the plea has not been set aside with respect to a crime involving  
33 moral turpitude, the Board shall order the revocation of a license [or temporary  
34 license] on the certification by the Office of the Attorney General.

1 14-5B-15.

2 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (d) of this section, hospitals,  
3 related institutions, alternative health systems as defined in § 1-401 of this article,  
4 and employers shall file with the Board a report that the hospital, related institution,  
5 alternative health system, or employer limited, reduced, otherwise changed, or  
6 terminated any licensee [or holder of a temporary license] for any reason that might  
7 be grounds for disciplinary action under [§ 14-5B-13] § 14-5B-14 of this subtitle.

8 (b) A hospital, related institution, alternative health system, or employer  
9 that has reason to know that a licensee [or holder of a temporary license] has  
10 committed an action or has a condition that might be grounds for reprimand or  
11 probation of the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] or suspension or revocation  
12 of the licensure because the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] is alcohol  
13 impaired or drug impaired is not required to report the licensee [or holder of a  
14 temporary license] to the Board if:

15 (1) The hospital, related institution, alternative health system, or  
16 employer knows that the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] is:

17 (i) In an alcohol or drug treatment program that is accredited  
18 by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or is certified  
19 by the Department; or

20 (ii) Under the care of a health care practitioner who is  
21 competent and capable of dealing with alcoholism and drug abuse;

22 (2) (i) The hospital, related institution, alternative health system,  
23 or employer is able to verify that the licensee [or holder of a temporary license]  
24 remains in the treatment program until discharge; and

25 (ii) The action or condition of the licensee [or holder of a  
26 temporary license] has not caused injury to any person while the licensee [or holder of  
27 a temporary license] is practicing.

28 (c) (1) If the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] enters, or is  
29 considering entering, an alcohol or drug treatment program that is accredited by the  
30 Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or that is certified by  
31 the Department, the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] shall notify the  
32 hospital, related institution, alternative health system, or employer of the licensee's  
33 [or holder's] decision to enter the treatment program.

34 (2) If the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] fails to provide the  
35 notice required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, and the hospital, related  
36 institution, alternative health system, or employer learns that the licensee [or holder



1 of a temporary license] has entered a treatment program, the hospital, related  
2 institution, alternative health system, or employer shall report to the Board that the  
3 licensee [or holder of a temporary license] has entered a treatment program and has  
4 failed to provide the required notice.

5 (3) If the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] is found to be  
6 noncompliant with the treatment program's policies and procedures while in the  
7 treatment program, the treatment program shall notify the hospital, related  
8 institution, alternative health system, or employer of the licensee's [or holder's]  
9 noncompliance.

10 (4) On receipt of the notification required under paragraph (3) of this  
11 subsection, the hospital, related institution, alternative health system, or employer of  
12 the licensee [or holder of a temporary license] shall report the licensee's [or holder's]  
13 noncompliance to the Board.

14 14-5B-18.1.

15 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, a licensed physician may  
16 not employ or supervise an individual practicing radiation therapy, radiography,  
17 nuclear medicine technology, or radiology assistance without a license [or temporary  
18 license].

19 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, a hospital, related  
20 institution, alternative health system, or employer may not employ an individual  
21 practicing radiation therapy, radiography, nuclear medicine technology, or radiology  
22 assistance without a license [or temporary license].

23 (c) The Board may impose a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for employing an  
24 individual without a license [or temporary license] under this section.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 October 1, 2013.