AN ACT

Amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112),
entitled "An act relating to the right to practice medicine
and surgery and the right to practice medically related acts;
reestablishing the State Board of Medical Education and
Licensure as the State Board of Medicine and providing for
its composition, powers and duties; providing for the
issuance of licenses and certificates and the suspension and
revocation of licenses and certificates; provided penalties;
and making repeals," further providing for definitions and
for State Board of Medicine; providing for medical imaging
professionals, radiation therapists, radiologist assistants
and related fields; repealing provisions relating to
radiologic procedures and education and training required;
and making related and inconsistent repeals.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 2 of the act of December 20, 1985
(P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, is
amended by adding definitions to read:

Section 2. Definitions.
The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
context clearly indicates otherwise:
"Accredited program." A program in medical imaging or radiation therapy that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the United States Department of Education.

"Certification organization." A national organization that specializes in the certification and registration of medical imaging or radiation therapy technical personnel and is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, the American National Standards Institute or another accreditation organization recognized by the board.

"Computed tomography." The process of producing sectional or three-dimensional images using external ionizing radiation for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

"Diagnostic medical sonography." The use of high-frequency sound waves with specialized equipment to direct the sound waves into an area of the human body to generate a diagnostic image for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

"Fluoroscopy." The exposure of a patient to x-rays in a fluoroscopy mode, including positioning the patient and fluoroscopy equipment and the selection of exposure factors.

"Ionizing radiation." Radiation that consists of alpha particles, beta particles, gamma rays, x-rays, neutrons, high-speed electrons, high-speed protons or other particles capable of producing ions. The term does not include non-ionizing
radiation, including high-frequency sound waves, magnetic
fields, microwaves, radiofrequency signals or visible, infrared
or ultraviolet light.

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"Licensed practitioner." An individual who is licensed to
practice medicine, dentistry, podiatry or osteopathy in this
Commonwealth.

"Limited x-ray machine operator." An individual who is
licensed to perform only x-ray procedures that do not involve
the administration or utilization of contrast media on selected
specific parts of the human anatomy under the supervision of a
licensed practitioner.

"Magnetic resonance imaging." The creation or acquisition of
images generated by using radiofrequency signals within a
magnetic field for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

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"Medical imaging." A modality used to produce images of the
internal structures of the human body for diagnostic,
interventional or therapeutic purposes through the use of
electromagnetic waves, sound waves, radio waves, magnetic
fields, ionizing radiation or radioactive materials.

"Medical imaging, radiation therapy or radiologist assistant
license." A license to use radioactive substances or equipment
emitting high-frequency sound waves, ionizing radiation,
magnetic fields or radiofrequency signals for medical imaging or
radiation therapy procedures on humans for diagnostic or
therapeutic purposes in this Commonwealth in accordance with
section 13.7.

"Medical imaging professional." An individual, other than a
physician, an osteopathic physician or a podiatrist, who has
undergone appropriate training and testing by a certification
organization to become a medical imaging licensee in the
modality in which the individual's practices, including any of
the following:

(1) Diagnostic medical sonography.
(2) Advanced medical sonography.
(3) Fluoroscopy.
(4) Limited x-ray machine operations.
(5) Magnetic resonance imaging.
(6) Nuclear medicine technology.
(7) Radiography.

**Mobile imaging.** An arrangement in which medical imaging
services are transported to various sites. The term does not
include movement within a hospital or movement to a site where
the equipment will be located permanently.

**Nuclear medicine technology.** Medical imaging that utilizes
sealed and unsealed radioactive materials for diagnostic,
treatment and research purposes. The term includes any of the
following:

(1) The procurement, preparation and administration of
radiopharmaceuticals, adjunctive and imaging medications.
(2) The combination of nuclear medicine instrumentation
with computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging or other
modalities to produce a three-dimensional image with or
without adjunctive and imaging medications to enhance the
evaluation of physiological processes at a molecular level.

**Radiation therapist.** An individual, other than a physician
or an osteopathic physician, who has undergone appropriate training and testing by a certification organization to become a radiation therapist.


"Radiography." The process of obtaining an image using external ionizing radiation for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

"Radiologist." A physician who is licensed in this Commonwealth and is board-eligible for certification as a radiologist or is certified by the American Board of Radiology, the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology, the Royal College of Radiology or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as a radiologist.

"Radiologist assistant." An individual, other than a physician or an osteopathic physician, who meets all of the following criteria:

(1) The individual has undergone appropriate training and testing by a certification organization to become a radiologist assistant.

(2) The individual works under the supervision of a radiologist.

(3) The individual does not interpret imaging, render diagnoses or prescribe medications or therapies.

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"Specialization." A medical specialty area or type of equipment used within a medical imaging or radiation therapy modality, which has a corresponding certification from a certification organization recognized by the board.

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Section 2. Section 3(a) and (b) of the act are amended to read:

Section 3. State Board of Medicine.

(a) Establishment.--The State Board of Medicine shall consist of the commissioner or his designee, the Secretary of Health or his designee, two members appointed by the Governor who shall be persons representing the public at large and seven members appointed by the Governor, six of whom shall be medical doctors with unrestricted licenses to practice medicine and surgery in this Commonwealth for five years immediately preceding their appointment and one who shall be a nurse midwife, physician assistant, certified registered nurse practitioner, respiratory therapist, licensed athletic trainer or perfusionist or a medical imaging professional, radiation therapist or radiologist assistant licensed or certified under the laws of this Commonwealth. All professional and public members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of a majority of the members elected to the Senate.

(b) Terms of office.--The term of each professional and public member of the board shall be four years or until his or her successor has been appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond the four-year period. In the event that any of said members shall die or resign or otherwise become disqualified during his or her term, a successor shall be appointed in the same way and with the same qualifications and shall hold office for the unexpired term. No member shall be eligible for appointment to serve more than two consecutive terms. The Governor shall assure that nurse midwives, physician assistants, certified registered nurse practitioners,
perfusionists and respiratory therapists and medical imaging professionals, radiation therapists or radiologist assistants are appointed to four-year terms on a rotating basis so that, of every appointments to a four-year term, one is a nurse midwife, one is a physician assistant, one is a certified registered nurse practitioner, one is a respiratory therapist and one is a medical imaging professional, radiation therapist or radiologist assistant.

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Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 13.7. Medical imaging professionals, radiation therapists, radiologist assistants and related fields.

(a) Functions.—A medical imaging professional, radiation therapist or radiologist assistant shall perform the functions of the modality in which the medical imaging professional, radiation therapist or radiologist assistant is licensed and any related specializations. The functions under this subsection shall include any of the following:

(1) Diagnostic medical sonography.

(2) Magnetic resonance imaging.

(3) Nuclear technology medicine.

(4) Radiation therapy.

(5) Radiography.

(6) Radiologist assistant.

(b) License required.—On or after January 1, 2024, an individual who is not licensed under this section may not perform or offer to perform medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures on humans for diagnostic, interventional or therapeutic purposes. A person, practice or business entity may
not knowingly employ an individual who does not hold a license under this section or is not exempt from the license requirements under this section to perform medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures on humans for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

(c) License standards.--The board shall issue a license to an individual who meets the standards established for certification by a certification organization. The board shall issue a license for two years and may renew the license upon the completion of the license renewal requirements, including continuing education requirements approved by the board.

(d) License requirements.--

(1) An individual seeking to obtain a license for a medical imaging or radiation therapy modality shall comply with all of the following requirements:

(i) The individual shall at least be 18 years of age at the time of application.

(ii) The individual shall have a high school diploma or pass an approved equivalency test.

(iii) The individual shall satisfactorily complete a course of study in diagnostic medical sonography, magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine technology, radiation therapy or radiography or an equivalent course of study determined by the board.

(iv) The individual shall pass an applicable modality or specialization examination administered by a certification organization. If an individual holds a current certification and registration in a medical imaging or radiation therapy modality on the effective date of this section, the board shall deem that the
individual has met the requirements under this subparagraph.

(v) The individual shall pay applicable license fees.

(2) In addition to the requirements for a medical imaging or radiation therapist license under paragraph (1), an individual seeking to obtain a license as a radiologist assistant shall comply with all of the following requirements:

(i) The individual shall hold a current license as a radiographer and be currently certified and registered as a radiographer by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

(ii) The individual shall hold a current certification and registration as a radiologist assistant by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or as a radiology practitioner assistant by the Certification Board of Radiology Practitioner Assistants.

(iii) The individual shall submit clinical protocols signed by the supervising radiologist to the board specifying procedures that are performed by the individual, the levels of radiologist supervision and the location of practice designated by the supervising radiologist. The individual shall submit updated protocols under this subparagraph biennially to the board and consistent with license renewal.

(e) Scope of practice and limitations.--

(1) A radiologist assistant scope of practice shall be consistent with the Radiologist Assistant Practice Standards published by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.
published on the effective date of this section. An individual licensed as a radiologist assistant may not interpret images, make diagnoses or prescribe medications or therapies.

(2) The board shall establish by regulation the scope of practice, education, certification, continuing education and licensure standards for an individual performing, under the supervision of a physician, a medical imaging modality and any related specializations, including any of the following:

(i) Diagnostic medical sonography.
(ii) Advanced medical sonography.
(iii) Fluoroscopy.
(iv) Limited x-ray machine operations.
(v) Magnetic resonance imaging.
(vi) Nuclear medicine technology.
(vii) Radiography.
(viii) Radiologist assistant.

(3) The board shall establish by regulation the scope of practice, education, continuing education and licensure standards for an individual performing radiation therapist duties under the supervision of a physician.

(4) In establishing the scope of practice, education, continuing education and licensure standards under paragraph (3), the board may review and adopt the current standards of the certification organization of each medical imaging and radiation therapy modality.

(5) An individual licensed as a fluoroscopy operator shall only perform fluoroscopy within the scope of the license issued to the individual and may not perform computed tomography, diagnostic medical sonography, magnetic resonance imaging.
imaging, mammography, mobile imaging, nuclear medicine technology, radiography or radiation therapy procedures.

(6) An individual licensed as a limited x-ray machine operator shall perform tasks or procedures only within the scope of the specific permit issued to the individual by the board for a particular area of the human anatomy and may not perform procedures involving the administration and utilization of contrast media or perform computed tomography, diagnostic medical sonography, fluoroscopy, magnetic resonance imaging, mammography, mobile imaging, nuclear medicine technology or radiation therapy.

(7) A licensee under this section may use radioactive substances or equipment emitting ionizing radiation, high-frequency sound waves or magnetic resonance and perform medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures on humans for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes only:

(i) with a valid prescription of a person authorized by the Commonwealth to prescribe medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures;

(ii) under the supervision of a licensed practitioner; and

(iii) within the scope of the license as specified under this chapter and under regulations adopted by the board and in a modality for which the licensee is licensed.

(8) A licensee under this section may not make a diagnostic interpretation of an image, make a diagnosis or prescribe a medication or therapy.

(f) Current certification.--An individual currently registered and certified by a certification organization on the
effective date of this section shall immediately qualify for a license under this section.

(g) Use of title.--An individual may not indicate or otherwise imply that an individual is certified or licensed to perform medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures in a medical imaging modality unless the individual is currently licensed in the medical imaging modality to perform medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures.

(h) Fluoroscopy and computed tomography.--

(1) An applicant for a fluoroscopy operator license shall be a physician assistant licensed in this Commonwealth who meets all of the following requirements:

(i) The applicant shall complete 40 hours of didactic education in radiation safety, radiation protection, equipment operation, image acquisition and patient positioning.

(ii) The applicant shall complete 40 hours of clinical education supervised by a radiologist or radiographer.

(iii) The applicant shall successfully complete the fluoroscopy examination of a certification organization.

(2) An individual who is licensed as a fluoroscopy operator in this Commonwealth shall only perform fluoroscopy within the scope of the individual's license and may not perform computed tomography, diagnostic medical sonography, magnetic resonance imaging, mammography, mobile imaging, nuclear medicine technology, radiography or radiation therapy.

(3) On and after October 1, 2025, a licensee under this section who performs computed tomography for diagnostic
purposes shall receive a certification in computed tomography by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board or other certification organization.

(i) Limitation or expansion of practice.--Nothing in this section relating to medical imaging or radiation therapy shall be construed to limit or expand the practice of a licensed practitioner.

(j) Exemptions.--This section shall not apply to any of the following:

(1) A licensed practitioner performing medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures.

(2) A dental hygienist currently licensed in this Commonwealth.

(3) A dental assistant currently licensed in this Commonwealth.

(4) A resident physician or student enrolled in and attending a school or college of medicine, chiropractic, podiatry, medical imaging or radiation therapy who performs authorized medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures on humans while under the supervision of a licensed practitioner or the supervision of an individual holding a license under this section in the supervised modality. In accordance with the regulations established by the board under this section, a student enrolled in a medical imaging educational program recognized by the board may be employed by a medical facility affiliated with the educational program to perform authorized medical imaging procedures for which the student has a demonstrated competency if the medical imaging procedures are performed under the supervision of a licensed practitioner or
the supervision of an individual holding a license under this section in the supervised modality.

(5) A licensed chiropractor or an individual under the supervision of a chiropractor who is permitted to perform x-rays under the act of December 16, 1986 (P.L.1646, No.188), known as the Chiropractic Practice Act.

(6) An individual who is employed by the Federal Government to perform medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures associated with the employment.

(7) An individual performing sonography procedures within the individual's scope of practice that is used to assess information about a patient's immediate condition, is limited to a focused imaging target and does not generate a recorded diagnostic medical image, including assessment of any of the following:

(i) Fetal presentation or heartbeat.

(ii) Fluid in a body cavity.

(iii) Foreign body position or location.

(iv) Fetal monitoring during active labor.

(v) An anatomical landmark or blood vessel for vascular access or administration of anesthesia.

(8) An individual performing medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures on nonhuman subjects or cadavers.

(k) License renewal and maintenance.--

(1) A license under this section shall be subject to biennial renewal. If at the time of application for renewal, the applicant for license renewal has verified, by oath or affirmation, that the applicant is not in violation of this section, has complied with board's regulations under this
section and has paid the license renewal fee, the board shall
renew the applicant's license under this section.

(2) A licensee under this section shall maintain current
certification and registration by a certification
organization throughout the licensure period and shall not be
required to duplicate the continuing education hours
submitted to the certification organization. The board may
require a licensee under this section to submit evidence of
current certification and registration by a certification
organization, which shall be deemed equivalent to the
continuing education requirements established by the board.

(3) As a condition of license renewal under this
section, an individual licensed as fluoroscopy operator or
limited x-ray machine operator shall complete continuing
education requirements established by the board.

(1) Advisory committees.--

(1) The board shall establish an ad hoc advisory
committee consisting of medical imaging professionals,
radiation therapists and radiologist assistants to assist the
board in promulgating the initial regulations for licensee
qualifications, standards and scope of practice for each
modality and specialization under this paragraph.

(2) The advisory committee under paragraph (1) shall
consist, at a minimum, of the following members:

(i) A radiologist licensed in this Commonwealth.
(ii) A radiographer.
(iii) A diagnostic medical sonographer.
(iv) A nuclear medicine technologist.
(v) A magnetic resonance imaging technologist.
(vi) A radiation therapist.
(vii) A radiologist assistant.

(viii) A licensee in one of the modalities under this section who is also a full-time educator in an accredited program in medical imaging or radiation therapy.

(3) The chairperson of the board shall preside over meetings of the advisory committee under paragraph (1). The chairperson shall appoint members of the advisory committee under paragraph (1), schedule meetings and provide notice to advisory committee members. Members of the advisory committee under paragraph (1) shall be appointed from nominations submitted by associations or organizations in this Commonwealth representing medical imaging professionals, radiation therapists and radiologist assistants.

Section 4. Section 45 of the act is repealed:

[Section 45. Radiologic procedures; education and training required.]

(a) Supervision.--On and after January 1, 1988, no auxiliary personnel shall perform radiologic procedures on the premises of a medical doctor unless such person is under the direct supervision of a medical doctor and unless such person has passed an examination approved by the board and administered in accordance with section 812.1 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, provided that no such auxiliary personnel shall perform radiologic procedures for therapeutic purposes unless the medical doctor under whose direct supervision such auxiliary personnel is acting is on the premises at the time the radiologic procedures are performed.

(b) Exclusion.--The board shall have the authority, after
notice and hearing, to prohibit an auxiliary personnel from
performing radiologic procedures if the continued performance of
radiologic procedures by the auxiliary personnel is determined
by the board to pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare
of the public.

(c) Penalty.--It shall be unlawful under this act to
knowingly permit radiologic procedures to be performed in
violation of this section or in violation of the regulations
promulgated or orders issued in accordance with this section.

(d) Education and testing.--No auxiliary personnel who has
or obtains a license, certificate or registration issued by, or
on behalf of, a board within the Bureau of Professional and
Occupational Affairs or a comparable board of another state, or
who has obtained certification as the result of satisfactory
completion of a test and an educational course accredited by an
accrediting body recognized by the board, shall be required to
undergo any additional education or testing pursuant to this
section if radiologic procedures were included in the education
or the examination which he or she was required to complete
successfully in order to be eligible for such license,
certificate, registration or certification.

(e) Definition.--As used in this section, the term
"radiologic procedures" means the use of ionizing radiation for
diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.]

Section 5. Repeals are as follows:

(1) The General Assembly declares the repeals under
paragraph (2) are necessary to effectuate the addition of
section 13.7 of the act.

(2) The following are repealed:

(i) Section 16.4 of the act of October 5, 1978
(P.L.1109, No.261), known as the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, is repealed.

(ii) Section 21.2 of the act of March 2, 1956 (1955 P.L.1206, No.375), known as the Podiatry Practice Act, repealed insofar as it is inconsistent with the addition of section 13.7 of the act.

Section 6. This act shall take effect immediately.