
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2019 - 2020 Regular Session

SB 480 (Archuleta) - Radiologist Assistant Advisory Committee

Version: January 14, 2020

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 9 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: January 21, 2020

Consultant: Samantha Lui

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 480 would establish, until January 1, 2023, a Radiologist Assistant Advisory Committee (RA Committee) under the Medical Board of California (MBC) to identify the training, qualifications, and scope of practice for individuals providing assistance to radiologists. Would specify the RA Advisory Committee membership; require the Advisory Committee to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2022; and, require the MBC and the Department of Public Health (CDPH) to adopt regulations based on report recommendations.

Fiscal Impact: According to the Department of Consumer Affairs, approximately \$57,000 (special fund) for 0.5 Associate Governmental Program Analyst until January 1, 2023, to coordinate the legislative report. Staff estimates indeterminate cost pressures in out-years, related to the implementation of specified report recommendations, which are unknown at this time. In addition, staff estimates less than \$150,000 (special fund) for staff at the Department of Public Health to promulgate regulations based on report recommendations.

Background: According to the policy committee analysis: The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) defined a radiologist assistant (RA) as an advanced level radiologic technician who works under the supervision of a radiologist by assisting in the diagnostic imaging setting, including performing patient assessment, patient management, and certain imaging procedures. RAs do not interpret radiologic examinations. Some states in turn allow for expanded practice authority through licensure of RAs that reflects this more advanced level of training, experience, and passage of a certification examination.

The MBC has six standing committees¹, five two-member task forces² or issue specific committees, two panels³ and one council⁴ to assist with the MBC's work. The committee structure allows committee members to thoroughly discuss a topic and make a decision to move forward a formal recommendation to the MBC for consideration at a MBC meeting.

¹ Application Review and Special Programs Committee; Special Faculty Permit Review Committee; Executive Committee; Licensing Committee; Enforcement Committee; Editorial Committee; Public Outreach, Education, and Wellness Committee.

² Midwifery Task Force; Prescribing Task Force; Sunset Review Task Force; Demographic Study Task Force; Compounding Task Force; Stem Cell and Regenerative Therapy Task Force.

³ Panels evaluate appropriate disciplinary actions. Panel A considers actions related to physicians with a last name starting with A-L, and Panel B considers M-Z.

⁴ Midwifery Advisory Council serves as a permanent body to provide input regarding licensure and regulation of midwives.

Proposed Law: The bill would include the following provisions, among others:

- Requires the MBC to establish the Radiologist Assistant (RA) Advisory Committee for the purpose of identifying the appropriate training, qualifications, and scope of practice for individuals providing assistance to radiologists.
- Requires the Advisory Committee to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2022, that will include research and recommend potential statutory changes to grant expanded practice authority to certified radiologic technologists or medical assistants working under the supervision of a radiologist
- Specifies the 12-member Advisory Committee membership to include:
 - Two members of the board appointed by the board.
 - One member of the CDPH Radiologic Technology Certification Committee, appointed by the Director of Public Health.
 - One representative, as specified, from the California Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Two radiologists, at least one of whom is representative of the hospital practice of radiology, appointed by the Governor.
 - Two radiologic technologists, as specified, appointed by the Governor.
 - Two representatives of a radiologic technology training program or radiologist assistant training program, appointed by the Governor.
 - One member who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.
 - One member who shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.
- Requires members of the Advisory Committee to serve without compensation.
- Requires the Advisory Committee to submit a report to the board, the Governor, and the Legislature before January 1, 2022.
- Requires the MBC and the CDPH to adopt regulations to implement relevant recommendations and information contained in the report.
- Sunsets provisions on January 1, 2023.

-- END --