



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 882**

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**Chairperson:** Jim Jensen  
**Committee:** Health and Human Services  
**Date of Hearing:** January 18, 2006

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 882 makes the following changes to the Radiation Control Act.

- Section 71-3516 authorizes the Department of Regulation and Licensure (Department) to impound or order the impoundment of sources of radiation (i.e., radioactive source that has been abandoned) in the possession of any person who is not equipped to observe or fails to observe the provisions of the Radiation Control Act or any rules of regulations issued pursuant to the Act in the event of an emergency affecting occupational or public health and safety to the environment.

Currently, this Act does not authorize the Department to take title to impounded radiation sources and dispose of them. There are a number of options such as making arrangements with the source manufacturer to take it back, disposing of it in a low-level radioactive waste facility or finding someone that is appropriately licensed that has a use for the source. This change is necessary so that the Department can properly dispose of impounded sources of radiation.

- LB 882 eliminates the requirement that the Department provide the forms for registration of sources of radiation. Currently to register an x-ray machine the applicant must fill out a particular form. If the Department is no longer required to provide a form, the necessary information can be stated in the regulations but applicant would have the flexibility of providing the required information to the Department in any format such as over e-mail. The Department would still provide a form for those that wanted to use it but the form would not be part of the regulations nor would the applicants be required to use it. As a result, this allows the applicant flexibility of listing in the regulations the necessary information items that must be included in application without limiting the specific format of the application.
- LB 882 eliminates the reference to the Central Interstate Low Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission in the definition of management of low-level radioactive waste. This state is no longer a member of this compact.
- LB 882 eliminates all reference to provisional licenses for radiographers. All provisional limited radiographer licenses are expired.

- LB 882 creates a new restricted category of medical radiography licensure. This category allows individuals certified by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) in Nuclear Medicine Technology that are also certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists in Computed Tomography to be eligible for a license to practice medical radiography restricted to computed tomography systems designed to perform the functions of both a nuclear medicine system and a computed tomography system. Those nuclear medicine facilities that have purchased this new type of equipment will be in support of this bill as well as the nuclear training program.

Currently, a nuclear medicine technician and a medical radiographer need to be present when these new nuclear medicine systems and computed tomography systems are used. Currently for a new type of medical imaging system that fuses the metabolic information of a nuclear medicine system with the anatomic information of a computed tomography system, two operators are required to perform a procedure, increasing the cost. A nuclear medicine technologist performs the part of the exam that utilizes radioactive material to see the metabolic function and medial radiographer performs the computed tomography portion of the examination that utilizes x-rays to visualize the anatomy. This change would allow medical facilities to utilize a nuclear medicine technologist that had completed an advanced level examination in computed tomography to perform the entire procedure.

- LB 882 creates a new category of limited radiographer in bone densitometry equipment and allows the Department to recognize successful completion of the AART's Bone Densitometry Equipment Operator Examination as the basis for limited licensure in bone densitometry. Bone densitometers are used for diagnosis and evaluate the effects of osteoporosis.

The Department has regulated the use of bone densitometry equipment by limited radiographers through policy since 1998. The State currently utilizes the AART's limited scope of practice in radiography examination in making credentialing decisions for other limited radiographers. The AART recently developed a limited scope examination on the principles of operating bone densitometry equipment specifically for use by the states in making a determination of an individual's eligibility for state licensure.

- Under the current Radiation Control Act, only licensed practitioners can interpret medical radiography procedures or direct medical radiographers and limited radiographers to perform medical radiography. This is inconsistent with the duties authorized in the scope of practice for physician assistants and nurse practitioners that include ordering and interpreting medical radiographic procedures. This bill modifies the definition of licensed practitioner to include physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Joel T. Johnson**