



Radiologic Legislative/Regulatory Update

On Wednesday, November 15, Randy Griswold and I, with Mr. Blumenfeld met with Laura Gutierrez, Secretary of the Dept of Safety and Professional Services, and her Assistant Deputy, Kirsten Reader in Madison. This was a follow up to the visit that they both had made to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee that Kyle Theine, Director of the School of Radiologic Technology and I hosted in August. Her outward view of the importance of radiologic licensure was favorable in August. However, Senate Bill 388/ AB 369, led by Senator Kapenga would legislate the review of occupational licenses for potential elimination. If the bill passes the Assembly, this bill would take precedence over the study that the Joint Finance Committee recommended as part of the state budget. To review, we were successful in stopping the elimination of the Radiography Examining Board in the state budget with advocacy, but the study still could recommend elimination of our licensure. Either the bill will pass, or the study will occur, and the Secretary will be overseeing the licensure review process. We wanted to hear her current views on the review process, as well as clarify her position on two other bills:

Sunset Bill:

AB 384/SB 295: This bill would sunset all administrative rules every 9 years. with the first sunset 1/1/2021. This bill passed the Assembly on 11/9. "Sunset" means the rules, or regulations, which would include our licensure law, would be discontinued. There would be a process for reappropriation of the regulation, and essentially groups like us would have to advocate for the retention of their licensure. There is an elaborate process to this reappropriation.

Self -Certification Bill:

AB 370/SB 296

This would allow individuals in certain professions to be able to apply for a "state-certified" title based on criteria for that profession that is yet to be determined. The concern with this proposed legislation is that the title would not be required by the state to practice in the field. Ms. Reader clarified that at this time, this would apply only to professions not yet licensed. Mr. Blumenfeld in later conversation cautioned us that this could easily lead to the slippery slope and apply to other professions in the future.

Ms. Gutierrez and Ms. Reader stated in this meeting that the review process will involve the collection of massive amounts of data, Ms. Gutierrez urged us to "start compiling" data that will assist them regarding employment statistics in the radiologic fields, which will be part of the review process. Ms. Guutierrez stated the Radiography Examining Board will be involved as well. In our biweekly conference call with Eric Grier of the ARRT, and the ASRT Gov Relations Staff, Christine Lung, and Greg Morrison, we requested help with this data collection. Christine Lung has supplied us with a link to the ASRT website and the ASRT research department is assisting. Randy asked them to continue to work with us as a resource and suggested the Aunt Minnie site as there is a lot of information on the professions as well. We believe this was a valuable meeting. Yet our profession is not regarded as one, like nurses and physicians, that **must** be regulated in the mind of the DSPS. Our work will continue.

On a positive note, radiologic technologists are no longer an "unknown" to the DSPS nor the legislature. We have made our role in health care known in Madison. It is clear that this advocacy is going to be necessary in the years to come. The WSRT will have to consider this ongoing struggle as it makes plans to remain effective and relevant to the profession. It will take constant advocacy from all of us, and an effort to engage our colleagues if we are to prevail.

Respectfully,

Sandra Helinski, MBA, RTR, QM, MR
WSRT Legislative Committee Chair