



# Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists

4/27/2021

Dear Chairperson Representative Sortwell, Vice Chair Representative Scott Allen, and all members of the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform,

The Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists (WSRT) is the professional organization of radiologic technologists in the state of Wisconsin, and an affiliate of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. Radiologic Technologists (RT) are the gatekeepers of Standard of Care diagnostic imaging by providing optimum medical image quality for patients, at the lowest possible radiation exposure. The WSRT represents approximately 7,000 registered radiologic professionals and is in strong support of the licensure of radiologic technologists and issuance of permits to qualified limited x-ray machine operators (LXMO). Chapter 462 of Wisconsin State Statutes was enacted in 2010 to ensure that patients receive only safety-conscious, cost-effective, and quality radiologic imaging throughout the state.

Wisconsin is fortunate to have a robust network of educational programs in radiologic technology to meet the needs of its patients. Various technical colleges and universities articulate with hospital sites throughout the state to fulfill the didactic and clinical requirements of the rigorous program. Students are prepared to become credentialed professionals by passage of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) examination. Once credentialed by the ARRT, the individual is eligible to apply for their Wisconsin license, validating their competency in this essential health care role. Recently, the ARRT initiated a process for ensuring on-going technologist proficiency on a long-term basis, through its new Continuing Qualifications Requirements (CQR). This ARRT program will continue to serve Wisconsin's patients with the support of the WSRT and our state licensing process.

The radiologic technologists of Wisconsin rely on the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to process license applications on a timely basis to be part of the health care workforce. The WSRT is cognizant of challenges experienced by some applicants having been queried for information and advice in obtaining their licenses. It is not clear as to why some requests have been in the system for weeks, and up to months in some cases. The WSRT is in favor of the provisions of Assembly Bill 218 to promote prompt attention to approval requests with the following rationale:

- The bill promotes overall timely review of license applications;
- The bill endorses communication and collaboration between each occupation's credentialing board and the DSPS staff ;
- There is a finite 10 day period that must be respected for the issuance of the license credential after the application is considered complete by the DSPS:
- AB 218 recognizes that appropriate investigation by DSPS will continue to ensure each applicant satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth in Chapter 462.

Chapter 462 was created to place no onerous additional state requirements upon applicants to qualify for the radiologic technologist license credential. It is important that any investigation related to arrest and conviction records should continue to ensure integrity of persons seeking to work in a patient care role,

which AB 218 endorses. We advocate that the DSPS and the individual credentialing boards work together to expedite those investigations to determine the disposition of applications requiring additional scrutiny. It is suggested that the state explore digital methods of processing applications that may help to streamline approvals instead of the physical mail and manual entry methods currently in place. The WSRT believes that licensure promotes protection of Wisconsin's patients through review by the DSPS and the Radiography Examining Board, guided by reasonable legislative provisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Helinski MBA RT (R), QM, MR,  
WSRT Legislative Committee Chairperson  
1213 South 64 Street , West Allis, WI 53214  
(414)-339-0193

Randy Griswold RT (R) M.P.A  
WSRT Legislative Committee Member  
1041 Village Green Court  
Green Bay, WI 54313