

Radiologist Assistant Legislation in Ohio
OSRT Working for Ohio Patients and Imaging Professionals!

In 2007, a bill was introduced in the Legislature that would license Radiologist Assistants (RA) in Ohio. This bill was developed primarily by the Ohio Radiological Society (ORS, the statewide professional organization representing Ohio Radiologists), and appeared to follow the national model supported by the American College of Radiologists (ACR) and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT).

At the beginning of this legislative process, representatives from the Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists (OSRT) met with representatives from the ORS to work out disagreements and improve the bill. The initial bill required that the RA license be administered by the Ohio Department of Health, Radiation Protection Division. The OSRT felt strongly that the scope of practice of the RA went beyond radiation protection issues and closely approximated those of the non-physician practicing clinicians, such as Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. The OSRT Health Policy Committee and the Board of Directors of OSRT worked tirelessly to convince the regulatory community that oversight and licensing of these individuals more closely aligned with the responsibilities of the Ohio Medical Board.

At a Congressional Legislative Committee hearing in early 2008, OSRT provided testimony in support of the licensure of Radiologist Assistants, but voiced concern about the bill as written. Many national organizations provided testimony urging passage of the bill in its initial form. Ultimately, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Medical Board came to support the OSRT's position. The bill was amended and the Governor signed the legislation into law on June 11, 2008. The bill requires the Radiologist Assistant to be credentialed by the ARRT (R.R.A) and hold a Radiographers License in Ohio. Ohio is now among the few states that provide licensing oversight of Radiologist Assistants.

The membership should be aware that the OSRT is actively monitoring pertinent legislation and assessing the impact on Ohio Technologists. It is vital that we are active in this process, as the radiology field grows and expands, more and more areas of medicine will have special interests in the process. Laws can be passed that impact radiologic science practitioners without our knowledge; therefore, due diligence is essential. This is crucial activity the OSRT performs for its membership and the imaging professional of Ohio.

As its mission, the OSRT advocates the safe and appropriate use of imaging and radiotherapeutic modalities, promotes professionalism through high ethical standards, influences health policy, and provides high quality services to the membership including continuing professional development opportunities. For more information about OSRT, email: osrt@neo.rr.com or call: 866-405-6778.