

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 968

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Blevins, Harry B.

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Radiologist assistants; licensure

5. Summary/Purpose: This legislation would provide for the licensure of radiologist assistants. Licensure would mean that an individual has met the requirements of the Board of Medicine for licensure as advanced-level radiologic technologist and who, under the direct supervision of a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy specializing in the field of radiology, is authorized to:

- (i) assess and evaluate the physiological and psychological responsiveness of patients undergoing radiologic procedures;
- (ii) evaluate image quality, make initial observations, and communicate observations to the supervising radiologist;
- (iii) administer contrast media or other medications prescribed by the supervising radiologist; and
- (iv) perform, or assist the supervising radiologist to perform, any other procedure consistent with the guidelines adopted by the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

In addition, the bill prohibits any unlicensed individual from calling themselves a licensed radiologist assistant. The Board of Medicine must establish a testing program and prescribe by regulation the qualifications governing the licensure of radiologist assistants.

6. Fiscal impact is minimal

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: The advanced level of licensure, the radiologist assistant, created by this legislation would fall under a the Radiological Technology Advisory Board, which is currently constituted within the Board of Medicine. The number of persons who would qualify for licensure is unknown; however it is estimated that it is likely to be less than 100. Many may be currently licensed as radiological technologists and will be able to submit credentials that qualify themselves for the advanced license as an radiologist assistant. The application and renewal fees may be similar to that of a radiological technologist (\$130 to apply; \$135 to renewal biennially). The fees generated by the licensure program should be sufficient to offset any licensing and disciplinary expenditures associated with the new

license. Moreover, it is not anticipated that there will be the need for additional positions in the Department of Health Professions.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Health Professions

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: This bill is a companion to HB 1939.

Date: 1/15/09

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources