



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Oregon Board of Medical Imaging
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 1160A
Portland, OR 97232-2162
Phone: (971) 673-0215
Fax: (971) 673-0218

SUMMARY OF HB 4008 – RELATING TO MEDICAL IMAGING

Senate Committee on Health Care, Human Services and Rural Health Policy – February 15, 2012

Ed Conlow, Executive Director, Board of Medical Imaging (971-673-0216)

Background: Legislation enacted in 2009 (HB 2245) expands Oregon’s medical imaging law to require state licensure of MRI technologists, nuclear medicine technologists and sonographers, beginning July 1, 2010. Another provision of HB 2245 requires all new or renewing medical imaging licensees to be nationally credentialed after January 1, 2014. In recent months the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) has become aware of three groups of current licensees whose situations were apparently not fully considered during passage of HB 2245, and whose situations are addressed in HB 4008. This legislation provides some narrow exceptions to allow these technologists to keep working, and is designed to avoid any disruption or change in status to other currently-licensed technologists.

1. Allow provisional license-holders to continue to work until 2014: Once Oregon’s expanded licensure law went into effect on July 1, 2010, technologists practicing in MRI, nuclear medicine and sonography who had no national credential but sought licensure were issued “provisional” state licenses, providing the privileges of full state licensure but also indicating the need to obtain national credentialing by 2014. In July 2011 the Board was informed by legal counsel that HB 2245, from the day it went into effect in 2010, requires all licensees to be in *current* compliance with the educational requirement tied to the national credential. The Board erroneously thought that this requirement was delayed until 2014, as part of the transitional process to let the new licensees continue to work in the profession while completing educational requirements.
 - **Sections 6 and 8** legalize the provisional licenses that were issued by the Board from July 2010 until July 2011, and allow the Board to renew their licenses until 2014. These sections also correct an apparent oversight in the 2009 legislation by assuring that technologists in the new licensure modalities (MRI; nuclear medicine; sonography) who already had a national credential in 2010, but had not graduated from an approved school, will remain fully licensed.
2. Allow “State Sponsored” license-holders to continue to work after 2014: Over the course of the first three decades of medical imaging licensure in Oregon, the Oregon Board sponsored a small group of radiographers to sit for the national credentialing examination. Upon successful passage, the Board issued licenses. But the national credentialing registry will not issue a national credential to a radiographer based upon passage of the examination by state sponsorship. As a result, Oregon law as currently written will not allow the Board to renew the licenses of state-sponsored radiographers after January 1, 2014, because technically these licensees will not possess a national credential.
 - **Sections 2, 3 and 7** allow the Board to continue to renew the licenses of persons who have already passed the national credentialing examination under state sponsorship.
3. Allow “Grandfathered” radiographers to continue to work after 2014: Some radiographers have been practicing since before this Board was created in the late 1970s, and were never required to earn a national credential. At this point, they are approaching retirement and cannot afford to quit working to go back to school for two years in order to meet the prerequisites to sit for the national credentialing examination. The Board has issued licenses to these individuals in the past, and would like to allow them to continue to work as radiographers until retirement. But the national credentialing requirement (in current Oregon law) will block the Board from renewing their licenses after January 1, 2014.
 - **Sections 2, 3 and 7** allow the Board to continue to renew the radiography licenses of grandfathered licensees after January 1, 2014.