

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 32**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Strongly encourages State Board of Medical Examiners to adopt regulations as necessary to authorize radiologist assistants to practice in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Regulated Professions Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/30/2020)**

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** strongly encouraging the adoption of  
2       rules and regulations related to the practice of radiologist  
3       assistants in the State.  
4  
5   **WHEREAS**, Radiologist assistants are advanced-level radiographers  
6       who improve patient access to timely radiologic care, and extend  
7       the capacity of radiologists in the diagnostic imaging environment,  
8       by performing patient assessment, patient management,  
9       fluoroscopy, and other radiology procedures under radiologist  
10      supervision, and by making initial observations of diagnostic  
11      images; and  
12   **WHEREAS**, Radiologist assistants effectively reduce the workload of  
13      radiologists, and improve productivity and efficiency in the  
14      diagnostic imaging environment, by performing exams designated  
15      by a radiologist, and by allowing radiologists to spend more time on  
16      image interpretation and diagnosis and the performance of invasive  
17      procedures that lie outside the scope of the assistant's practice; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, In order to engage in practice as a radiologist assistant, a  
19      person must be licensed as a diagnostic radiologic technologist, and  
20      must additionally be certified by, and registered with, the American  
21      Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) as a radiologist  
22      assistant; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, A person may not become certified and registered as a  
24      radiologist assistant, unless the person has first completed an  
25      ARRT-recognized advanced educational program that encompasses  
26      a nationally recognized radiologist assistant curriculum and  
27      includes a radiologist-directed clinical preceptorship; and  
28   **WHEREAS**, The Master of Science Radiologist Assistant Program,  
29      which is offered by Rutgers, the State University, at Newark, is one  
30      of only nine educational programs across the United States that has  
31      been recognized by the ARRT as being adequate for the purposes of  
32      radiologist assistant certification and registration; and  
33   **WHEREAS**, Based upon the education and competency testing required  
34      to act as a registered radiologist assistant, the Radiological Society  
35      of New Jersey (RSNJ) and Rutgers University have each  
36      determined that it is appropriate to authorize radiologist assistants,  
37      as part of their scope of practice, to perform the following delegated  
38      procedures, which require the use of fluoroscopic equipment:  
39      esophageal study; swallowing function study; upper gastrointestinal  
40      study (UGI); small bowel study; barium enema (BE) lower  
41      gastrointestinal study; nasogastric/enteric and oroenteric/enteric  
42      tube placement; t-tube cholangiogram; chest fluoroscopy;  
43      hysterosalpingogram procedure and imaging; Antegrade  
44      Pyelogram; arthrogram, joint injection and aspiration; cystography  
45      or voiding cystourethrography (catheter placement); loopography;  
46      lumbar puncture with contrast; myelogram; abcess, fistula, sinus  
47      tract study; paracentesis; thoracentesis; venous access ports;  
48      tunneled and non-tunneled central venous catheters; tunneled and

1 non-tunneled peripherally inserted central venous catheters; and  
2 tunneled and non-tunneled chest and abdominal drainage catheters;  
3 and  
4 **WHEREAS**, Despite the fact that New Jersey is one of the few states in  
5 the nation that provides sufficient education for radiologist assistant  
6 certification, and is one of only a few regular producers of  
7 professionals in this field, radiologist assistants are currently unable  
8 to practice in this State, because the State Board of Medical  
9 Examiners (BME) has failed to adopt regulations to define the  
10 parameters of this particular practice specialty; and  
11 **WHEREAS**, Although the practice of radiologic technologists and  
12 radiologist assistants in New Jersey is primarily regulated by the  
13 Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners, in the Department of  
14 Environmental Protection, (hereafter referenced as the “DEP  
15 Radiologic Board”), the regulations adopted by the DEP Radiologic  
16 Board, in this respect, require certain additional regulatory actions  
17 to be undertaken by the BME before radiologist assistants will be  
18 authorized to practice in New Jersey; and  
19 **WHEREAS**, The DEP Radiologic Board’s regulations at N.J.A.C.7:28-  
20 19.1 et seq. specify, in particular, that an ARRT-certified  
21 radiologist assistant in New Jersey will be authorized to perform  
22 procedures identified by the ARRT, but only if those procedures  
23 have been approved by the BME, and only if those procedures are  
24 performed “under the level of radiologist supervision specified by  
25 the BME;” and  
26 **WHEREAS**, Although the DEP Radiologic Board authorizes radiologist  
27 assistants to perform supervised procedures approved by the BME,  
28 it does not appear that the BME has taken appropriate regulatory  
29 action to adopt a list of approved procedures that may be  
30 undertaken by a radiologic assistant in accordance with the  
31 Radiologic Board’s authorizations, or to identify the level of  
32 radiologist supervision that is necessary for a radiologic assistant to  
33 perform such approved procedures; and  
34 **WHEREAS**, Without these BME regulations, the authorizations  
35 contained in the DEP Radiologic Board’s regulations are  
36 insufficient to allow a certified and registered radiologist assistant  
37 to practice in the State; and  
38 **WHEREAS**, This inability of radiologist assistants to practice in New  
39 Jersey has resulted in the unintended outsourcing of talent to other  
40 states, as properly educated professionals are forced to leave the  
41 State to find appropriate employment in their specialty; and  
42 **WHEREAS**, Because it would significantly benefit radiologists and  
43 patients in New Jersey to maintain this educated workforce in the  
44 State and allow radiologist assistants to become incorporated into  
45 the State’s diagnostic imaging environments, it is essential that the  
46 BME promptly adopt appropriate rules and regulations, as is  
47 necessary to allow radiologist assistants to practice their specialty in  
48 this State; now, therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
2       *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

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4       1. The State Board of Medical Examiners is strongly urged to  
5       adopt rules and regulations, within one year after the effective date  
6       of this resolution, and pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure  
7       Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to define the parameters  
8       for radiologist assistant practice in New Jersey, as is necessary to  
9       implement existing regulations of the Radiologic Technology Board  
10      of Examiners, which authorize certified radiologist assistants to  
11      practice in New Jersey, but only in accordance with parameters  
12      established by the Board of Medical Examiners. In particular, and  
13      as soon as is practicable, the Board of Medical Examiners is  
14      strongly advised to adopt a list of approved procedures in which a  
15      certified radiologist assistant may engage in the State, and identify  
16      the levels of supervision that are necessary for radiologist assistants  
17      to engage in such approved procedures.

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19      2. The Governor is respectfully requested to take any executive  
20      actions, which may be necessary to facilitate the rule-making  
21      described in section 1 of this resolution.

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23      3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
24      shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
25      Secretary of the Senate to the Governor, the Chair of the Radiologic  
26      Technology Board of Examiners, and each member of the State  
27      Board of Medical Examiners.