

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10102



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT
AUTHORIZING HEALTH AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO ENGAGE
IN THE PRACTICE OF ULTRASONOGRAPHY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7431, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "RADIOLOGIC
TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1992"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ultrasonography or ultrasound technology has been proven to be an effective tool in diagnosing diseases. Doctors employ ultrasound imaging in diagnosing a wide variety of conditions affecting the organs and soft tissues of the body.¹ Ultrasound, which is also commonly referred to as a sonogram, works by using sound waves at higher frequencies than the human ear can hear for the purpose of interacting with the tissues in the body. This interaction gives the technician the ability to view and monitor images such as the flow of blood and the movement of the body's internal organs. It is also commonly used to view potentially cancerous tumors in the body. In the past, physicians would use surgically-invasive procedures to perform such biopsies. In order to avoid the risk that accompanies any type of surgery, physicians began utilizing ultrasound and found it to be very useful.

At present, there has been an expanded use of ultrasound in the diagnosis of more complex abnormalities in specialized medical fields such as diagnosing cardiac abnormalities in fetuses and as an aid to other diagnostic and therapeutic procedures such as ultrasound-guided pericardiocentesis. To be a sonographer therefore entails a lot of knowledge and specialized skills that can only be obtained by specialized training.

R.A No. 7431 or the Radiologic Technology Act of 1992, regulates the practice of radiologic technology in the Philippines which includes the technical application of ultrasound and radio frequency rays in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. While this law provides that

¹ AdventHealthUniversityOnline

only registered radiologic technicians (RRTs) are allowed to practice the profession it also does not preclude or disqualify other professionals registered with the Professional Regulation Commission from practicing x-ray technology and radiologic technology provided that under the laws governing their respective professions, they may perform said acts. However, despite the absence of any authority from regulatory professions, other health professionals have engaged in the practice of ultrasonography.

In 2019, the FDA commenced the drafting of the Rules and Regulation of the Use of Ultrasound Devices and Operation of Ultrasound Facilities in the Philippines, which will strictly implement R.A 7431 to limit the operation of ultrasound devices to Registered Radiologic Technologists (RRT) and those professions allowed under their respective professional regulatory laws as stated in the law. Unfortunately, no professional regulatory law has allowed radiologic technology in their respective practice. This stirred up various dialogues between FDA and existing health professionals who pursued a career in ultrasonography arguing that the implementation of the law would jeopardize existing laboratories, (including hospitals) employing non-RRT sonographers (majority of cardiac sonographers, 86%, are non-RRT) and displace many health workers such as nurses, midwives, medical technologists who engaged in sonography. It cannot be denied, however, that these non-RRT sonographers has indeed augmented the necessary workforce to man ultrasound machines.

As of December 31, 2020, there are 2,933 Registered Radiologic Technologists in the Philippines² or barely 1 RRT per 10,000 population which will not be able to fill in the demand of ultrasonography if these non-RRT sonographers would be disallowed from practice. Hence, this bill seeks to authorize other health and allied health professionals to engage in the practice of ultrasonography provided they have undergone certification and training to provide more manpower to this promising diagnostic and therapeutic medical tool.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this important measure is earnestly sought.



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4th District, Quezon

² DOH Human Resources for Health Statistics

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION. 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7431 is hereby amended by adding the following subsections at the end thereof:

“Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act the following terms shall mean:

- (i) “Commission” refers to the Professional Regulation Commission created under Presidential Decree Numbered Two hundred and twenty-three[.];

“J.). ULTRASONOGRAPHY OR ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY IS A PROCEDURE WHERE HIGH-FREQUENCY SOUNDWAVES, OVER 20 KHZ INAUDIBLE TO HUMAN EAR ARE TRANSMITTED IN BEAMS AND USED TO SCAN THE TISSUES OF THE BODY WITH THE USE OF ULTRASOUND PROBES TO PRODUCE IMAGES USED FOR DIAGNOSING DISEASES AND ALSO AS AN ADJUNCT TO TREATMENT.

“K. SONOGRAPHER, ALSO KNOWN AS ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIST, IS A BONA FIDE HOLDER OF A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION FOR ULTRASONOGRAPHY ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT.

SEC. 2. A new section denominated as Section 6 of the same Act is added to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. PRACTICE OF ULTRASONOGRAPHY– THE PRACTICE OF ULTRASONOGRAPHY OR ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY SHALL INCLUDE ANY AND ALL ACTS BY WHICH ONE RENDERS, FURNISHES, OR CONTRACTS TO RENDER OR FURNISH PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AS A SONOGRAPHER OR ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIST.

A SONOGRAPHER OR ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIST SHALL ALSO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PRACTICE OF HIS/HER PROFESSION IF THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF HIS/HER EMPLOYMENT REQUIRES PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF ULTRASONOGRAPHY SUCH EMPLOYMENT OR POSITION REQUIRES THAT THE HOLDER IS A TRAINED AND CERTIFIED SONOGRAPHER/ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIST. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THE LAW TO THE CONTRARY, OTHER HEALTH AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS MAY BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM ANY OF THE ACTS ABOVEMENTIONED, PROVIDED THAT, ULTRASONOGRAPHY OR ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY IS INCLUDED IN THEIR COURSE CURRICULUM OR HAS UNDERGONE TRAINING AND CERTIFIED BY INSTITUTIONS ACCREDITED BY THE BOARD OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY, PROVIDED FINALLY, THAT THE SONOGRAPHER/ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIST IS REGISTERED BY THE COMMISSION.

SEC. 3. Section 6 of R.A 7431 is hereby renumbered as Section 7 and all succeeding sections of the same Act are hereby renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 4. Existing non-radiologic technology (RRT) sonographers/ultrasound technologists who have a minimum of five (5) years experience and those trained and certified by institutions accredited by the Board of Radiologic Technology may seek authorization from the Commission upon submission of certificate of employment or service record or certificate of training and completion from accredited institutions, as the case may be.

SEC. 5. If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, all other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,