CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Health Care Regulation Committee recommends the following: 2 3 Council/Committee Substitute Remove the entire bill and insert: 4 5 A bill to be entitled 6 An act relating to radiologist assistants; amending s. 7 468.3001, F.S.; redesignating part IV of ch. 468, F.S., as the "Radiological Personnel Certification Act"; amending 8 9 s. 468.301, F.S.; providing definitions; amending s. 10 468.302, F.S.; providing for identification and duties of a radiologist assistant; providing for rulemaking by the 11 Department of Health; providing limitations on duties a 12 radiologist assistant may perform; amending s. 468.304, 13 14 F.S.; providing conditions for qualification for a radiologist assistant's certificate; amending s. 468.306, 15 F.S.; specifying the applicants required to pass a 16 17 certification examination; requiring the department to accept certain demonstrations by an applicant for a 18 19 certification to practice as a radiologist assistant in lieu of any examination requirement; amending s. 468.3065, 20 21 F.S.; authorizing the Department of Health to issue certificates by endorsement to certain radiologist 22 23 assistants; providing for a fee; amending ss. 468.307, Page 1 of 20

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	HB 819 2006 <b>CS</b>
24	468.309, 468.3095, 468.3101, 468.311, and 468.3115, F.S.;
25	including radiologist assistants in provisions applicable
26	to radiologic technologists with respect to requirements
27	for certificate display, certificate renewal, change of
28	certificate status, grounds for disciplinary action,
29	violations, penalties, and injunctive relief; amending s.
30	468.314, F.S.; adding a certified radiologist assistant to
31	the membership of the Advisory Council on Radiation
32	Protection; providing an effective date.
33	
34	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
35	
36	Section 1. Section 468.3001, Florida Statutes, is amended
37	to read:
38	468.3001 Short titleThis part <del>shall be known and</del> may be
39	cited as the " <u>Radiological Personnel</u> <del>Radiologic Technologist</del>
40	Certification Act."
41	Section 2. Present subsections (4) through (14) of section
42	468.301, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)
43	through (15), respectively, present subsection (15) is
44	renumbered as subsection (18), new subsections (4), (16), and
45	(17) are added to that section, and present subsection (14) of
46	that section is amended, to read:
47	468.301 DefinitionsAs used in this part, the term:
48	(4) "Certificateholder" means any person who holds a
49	certificate under this part that authorizes that person to use
50	radiation on human beings.
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CS 51 "Radiologic technologist" means a person, other  $(15) \cdot (14)$ than a licensed practitioner, who is qualified by education, 52 training, or experience, as more specifically defined in s. 53 54  $468.302(3)(d) - (q) = \frac{468.302}{5}$ , to use radiation on human beings under the specific direction and general supervision of a 55 56 licensed practitioner in each particular case. "Radiologist" means a physician specializing in 57 (16)radiology certified by or eligible for certification by the 58 59 American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology, the British Royal College of Radiology, or the 60 61 Canadian College of Physicians and Surgeons. 62 (17)"Radiologist assistant" means a person, other than a 63 licensed practitioner, who is qualified by education and certification, as set forth in s. 468.304, as an advanced-level 64 radiologic technologist who works under the supervision of a 65 radiologist to enhance patient care by assisting the radiologist 66 in the medical imaging environment. 67 Section 3. Subsections (1), (5), and (6) of section 68 69 468.302, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraph (g) is added to subsection (2) of that section, and paragraph (h) is added to 70 subsection (3) of that section, to read: 71 72 468.302 Use of radiation; identification of certified 73 persons; limitations; exceptions.--74 Except as provided in this section, a person may not (1)75 use radiation or otherwise practice radiologic technology or any of the duties of a radiologist assistant on a human being unless 76 he or she: 77 78 Is a licensed practitioner; or (a) Page 3 of 20

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2006 CS 79 Is the holder of a certificate, as provided in this (b) 80 part, and is operating under the direct supervision or general supervision of a licensed practitioner in each particular case; 81 82 or<del>.</del> (C) Is the holder of a radiologist assistant certificate, 83 84 as provided in this part, and is operating under the supervision of a radiologist, as specified in paragraph (3)(h). 85 (2)86 87 (g) A person holding a certificate as a radiologist assistant may use the title "Certified Radiologist Assistant" or 88 89 the letters "CRA" after his or her name. 90 91 No other person is entitled to so use a title or letters contained in this subsection or to hold himself or herself out 92 in any way, whether orally or in writing, expressly or by 93 implication, as being so certified. 94 (3) 95 (h) A person holding a certificate as a radiologist 96 assistant may: 97 Perform specific duties allowed for a radiologist 98 1. assistant as defined by the department by rule. The rule must be 99 100 consistent with guidelines adopted by the American College of 101 Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and 102 the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, with the 103 level of supervision required by such guidelines. 104 2. Not perform nuclear medicine or radiation therapy 105 procedures unless currently certified and trained to perform 106 those duties under the person's nuclear medicine technologist or Page 4 of 20

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107	radiation therapy technologist certificate, interpret images,
108	make diagnoses, or prescribe medications or therapies.
109	(5) Nothing contained in this part relating to radiologic
110	technology or a radiologist assistant shall be construed to
111	limit, enlarge, or affect in any respect the practice by duly
112	licensed practitioners of their respective professions.
113	(6) Requirement for certification does not apply to:
114	(a) A hospital resident who is not a licensed practitioner
115	in this state or a student enrolled in and attending a school or
116	college of medicine, osteopathic medicine, chiropody, podiatric
117	medicine, or chiropractic medicine or a radiologic technology
118	educational program <u>or radiologist assistant educational program</u>
119	and who applies radiation to a human being while under the
120	direct supervision of a licensed practitioner.
121	(b) A person who is engaged in performing the duties of a
122	radiologic technologist <u>or of a radiologist assistant</u> in his or
123	her employment by a governmental agency of the United States.
124	(c) A person who is trained and skilled in cardiopulmonary
125	technology and who provides cardiopulmonary technology services
126	at the direction, and under the direct supervision, of a
127	licensed practitioner.
128	Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section
129	468.304, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
130	468.304 CertificationThe department shall certify any
131	applicant who meets the following criteria:
132	(3) Submits satisfactory evidence, verified by oath or
133	affirmation, that she or he:

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(e)1. Has successfully completed an educational program,
which program may be established in a hospital licensed pursuant
to chapter 395 or in an accredited postsecondary academic
institution which is subject to approval by the department as
maintaining a satisfactory standard; or

139 2.a. With respect to an applicant for a basic X-ray 140 machine operator's certificate, has completed a course of study 141 approved by the department with appropriate study material 142 provided the applicant by the department;

b. With respect to an applicant for a basic X-ray machine operator-podiatric medicine certificate, has completed a course of study approved by the department, provided that such course of study shall be limited to that information necessary to perform radiographic procedures within the scope of practice of a podiatric physician licensed pursuant to chapter 461;

c. With respect only to an applicant for a general radiographer's certificate who is a basic X-ray machine operator certificateholder, has completed an educational program or a 2year training program that takes into account the types of procedures and level of supervision usually and customarily practiced in a hospital, which educational or training program complies with the rules of the department; or

d. With respect only to an applicant for a nuclear
medicine technologist's certificate who is a general
radiographer certificateholder, has completed an educational
program or a 2-year training program that takes into account the
types of procedures and level of supervision usually and

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161 customarily practiced in a hospital, which educational or 162 training program complies with the rules of the department; ore. With respect to an applicant for a radiologist 163 164 assistant's certificate who demonstrates to the department that 165 he or she holds a current certificate or registration as a 166 radiologist assistant granted by the American Registry of 167 Radiologic Technologists. 168 169 The department may not certify any applicant who has committed an offense that would constitute a violation of any of the 170 171 provisions of s. 468.3101 or the rules adopted thereunder if the 172 applicant had been certified by the department at the time of 173 the offense. No application for a limited computed tomography 174 certificate shall be accepted. All persons holding valid computed tomography certificates as of October 1, 1984, are 175 subject to the provisions of s. 468.309. 176 Section 5. Section 468.306, Florida Statutes, is amended 177 178 to read: 179 468.306 Examinations.--All applicants for certification as a radiologic technologist, basic X-ray machine operator, or 180 181 basic X-ray machine operator-podiatric medicine, except those 182 certified pursuant to s. 468.3065, shall be required to pass an examination. In lieu of an examination for a radiologist 183 184 assistant certificate, the department shall accept a 185 demonstration by the applicant for such a certificate that he or she holds a current certificate or registration as a radiologist 186 187 assistant granted by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. The department may is authorized to develop or 188 Page 7 of 20

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use examinations for each type of certificate. The department may require an applicant who does not pass an examination after five attempts to complete additional remedial education, as specified by rule of the department, before admitting the applicant to subsequent examinations.

(1) The department <u>may</u> shall have the authority to
contract with organizations that develop such test examinations.
Examinations may be administered by the department or the
contracting organization.

(2) Examinations shall be given for each type of
certificate at least twice a year at such times and places as
the department may determine to be advantageous for applicants.

(3) All examinations shall be written and include positioning, technique, and radiation protection. The department shall either pass or fail each applicant on the basis of his or her final grade. The examination for a basic X-ray machine operator shall include basic positioning and basic techniques directly related to the skills necessary to safely operate radiographic equipment.

(4) A nonrefundable fee not to exceed \$75 plus the actual
per-applicant cost for purchasing the examination from a
national organization shall be charged for any subsequent
examination.

212 Section 6. Section 468.3065, Florida Statutes, is amended 213 to read:

214 468.3065 Certification by endorsement.--

215 (1) The department may issue a certificate by endorsement 216 to practice as a radiologist assistant to an applicant who, upon Page 8 of 20

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217 applying to the department and remitting a nonrefundable fee not 218 to exceed \$50, demonstrates to the department that he or she 219 holds a current certificate or registration as a radiologist 220 assistant granted by the American Registry of Radiologic 221 Technologists.

222 (2) The department may issue a certificate by endorsement to practice radiologic technology to an applicant who, upon 223 applying to the department and remitting a nonrefundable fee not 224 225 to exceed \$50, demonstrates to the department that he or she holds a current certificate, license, or registration to 226 227 practice radiologic technology, provided that the requirements 228 for such certificate, license, or registration are deemed by the 229 department to be substantially equivalent to those established 230 under this part and rules adopted under this part.

231 Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 468.307, Florida 232 Statutes, is amended to read:

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468.307 Certificate; issuance; display.--

(3) Every employer of <u>certificateholders</u> radiologic
 technologists shall display the certificates of all of such
 employees in a place accessible to view.

Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsections (4), (5), (6), and (7) of section 468.309, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

468.309 Certificate; duration; renewal; reversion to
inactive status; members of Armed Forces and spouses.--

(1) (a) A radiologic technologist's certificate issued in
 accordance with this part expires as specified in rules adopted
 by the department which establish a procedure for the biennial
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renewal of certificates. A certificate shall be renewed by the 245 246 department for a period of 2 years upon payment of a renewal fee in an amount not to exceed \$75 and upon submission of a renewal 247 248 application containing such information as the department deems necessary to show that the applicant for renewal is a 249 250 certificateholder radiologic technologist in good standing and has completed any continuing education requirements that the 251 252 department establishes.

(4) Any certificate that is not renewed by its expiration
date shall automatically be placed in an expired status, and the
certificateholder may not practice radiologic technology or
<u>perform the duties of a radiologist assistant</u> until the
certificate has been reactivated.

258 A certificateholder in good standing remains in good (5) standing when he or she becomes a member of the Armed Forces of 259 260 the United States on active duty without paying renewal fees or 261 accruing continuing education credits as long as he or she is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and for a period of 6 262 months after discharge from active duty, if he or she is not 263 engaged in practicing radiologic technology or performing the 264 duties of a radiologist assistant in the private sector for 265 266 profit. The certificateholder must pay a renewal fee and complete continuing education not to exceed 12 classroom hours 267 268 to renew the certificate.

(6) A certificateholder who is in good standing remains in
good standing if he or she is absent from the state because of
his or her spouse's active duty with the Armed Forces of the
United States. The certificateholder remains in good standing
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273 without paying renewal fees or completing continuing education 274 as long as his or her spouse is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and for a period of 6 months after the spouse's 275 276 discharge from active duty, if the certificateholder is not 277 engaged in practicing radiologic technology or performing the 278 duties of a radiologist assistant in the private sector for 279 The certificateholder must pay a renewal fee and profit. complete continuing education not to exceed 12 classroom hours 280 281 to renew the certificate.

(7) A certificateholder may resign his or her 282 283 certification by submitting to the department a written, 284 notarized resignation on a form specified by the department. The 285 resignation automatically becomes effective upon the 286 department's receipt of the resignation form, at which time the certificateholder's certification automatically becomes null and 287 void and may not be reactivated or renewed or used to practice 288 radiologic technology or to perform the duties of a radiologist 289 290 assistant. A certificateholder who has resigned may become 291 certified again only by reapplying to the department for certification as a new applicant and meeting the certification 292 293 requirements pursuant to s. 468.304 or s. 468.3065. Any 294 disciplinary action that had been imposed on the 295 certificateholder prior to his or her resignation shall be 296 tolled until he or she again becomes certified. Any disciplinary 297 action proposed at the time of the certificateholder's resignation shall be tolled until he or she again becomes 298 299 certified.

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300 Section 9. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of 301 section 468.3095, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

302 468.3095 Inactive status; reactivation; automatic
303 suspension; reinstatement.--

304 (2)(a) A certificate that has been expired for less than 305 10 years may be reactivated upon payment of the biennial renewal 306 fee and a late renewal fee, not to exceed \$100, and submission 307 of a reactivation application containing any information that 308 the department deems necessary to show that the applicant is a 309 certificateholder radiologic technologist in good standing and 310 has met the requirements for continuing education. The department shall prescribe, by rule, continuing education 311 312 requirements as a condition of reactivating a certificate. The 313 continuing education requirements for reactivating a certificate 314 may not exceed 10 classroom hours for each year the certificate 315 was expired and may not exceed 100 classroom hours for all years in which the certificate was expired. 316

317 A certificate that has been inactive or expired for 10 (C) 318 years or more automatically becomes null and void and may not be reactivated, renewed, or used to practice radiologic technology 319 or to perform the duties of a radiologist assistant. A 320 certificateholder whose certificate has become null and void may 321 become certified again only by reapplying to the department as a 322 323 new applicant and meeting the requirements of s. 468.304 or s. 324 468.3065.

325 Section 10. Subsections (1), (2), (3), and (5) of section 326 468.3101, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 327 468.3101 Disciplinary grounds and actions.--Page 12 of 20

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(1) The department may make or require to be made any
investigations, inspections, evaluations, and tests, and require
the submission of any documents and statements, which it
considers necessary to determine whether a violation of this
part has occurred. The following acts shall be grounds for
disciplinary action as set forth in this section:

(a) Procuring, attempting to procure, or renewing a
certificate to practice radiologic technology by bribery, by
fraudulent misrepresentation, or through an error of the
department.

(b) Having a voluntary or mandatory certificate to practice radiologic technology or to perform the duties of a radiologist assistant revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including being denied certification, by a national organization; by a specialty board recognized by the department; or by a certification authority of another state, territory, or country.

345 (C) Being convicted or found guilty, regardless of 346 adjudication, in any jurisdiction of a crime that directly relates to the practice of radiologic technology or to the 347 performance of the duties of a radiologist assistant, or to the 348 ability to practice radiologic technology or the ability to 349 perform the duties of a radiologist assistant. Pleading nolo 350 351 contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purpose of 352 this provision.

353 (d) Being convicted or found guilty, regardless of354 adjudication, in any jurisdiction of a crime against a person.

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355 Pleading nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for 356 the purposes of this provision.

(e) Making or filing a false report or record that the
certificateholder knows to be false, intentionally or
negligently failing to file a report or record required by state
or federal law, or willfully impeding or obstructing such filing
or inducing another to do so. Such reports or records include
only those reports or records which are signed in the capacity
<u>of the certificateholder</u> as a radiologic technologist.

(f) Engaging in unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, any departure from, or the failure to conform to, the standards of practice of radiologic technology or the standards of practice for radiologist assistants as established by the department, in which case actual injury need not be established.

370 Being unable to practice radiologic technology or to (a) perform the duties of a radiologist assistant with reasonable 371 372 skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of 373 alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or other materials or as a result of any mental or physical condition. A certificateholder 374 radiologic technologist affected under this paragraph shall, at 375 376 reasonable intervals, be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate 377 that he or she can resume the competent practice of his or her 378 certified profession radiologic technology with reasonable skill 379 and safety.

(h) Failing to report to the department any person who the
certificateholder knows is in violation of this part or of the
rules of the department.

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(i) Violating any provision of this part, any rule of the
department, or any lawful order of the department previously
entered in a disciplinary proceeding or failing to comply with a
lawfully issued subpoena of the department.

(j) Employing, for the purpose of applying ionizing radiation or otherwise practicing radiologic technology <u>or</u> <u>performing the duties of a radiologist assistant</u> on a human being, any individual who is not certified under the provisions of this part.

(k) Testing positive for any drug, as defined in s.
112.0455, on any confirmed preemployment or employer-required
drug screening when the <u>certificateholder</u> <del>radiologic</del>
<del>technologist</del> does not have a lawful prescription and legitimate
medical reason for using such drug.

Failing to report to the department in writing within 397 (1) 30 days after the certificateholder has had a voluntary or 398 mandatory certificate to practice radiologic technology or to 399 400 perform the duties of a radiologist assistant revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including being denied 401 certification, by a national organization, by a specialty board 402 recognized by the department, or by a certification authority of 403 404 another state, territory, or country.

(m) Having been found guilty of, regardless of
adjudication, or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, any
offense prohibited under s. 435.03 or under any similar statute
of another jurisdiction.

 409 (n) Failing to comply with the recommendations of the
 410 department's impaired practitioner program for treatment, Page 15 of 20

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411 evaluation, or monitoring. A letter from the director of the 412 impaired practitioner program that the certificateholder is not 413 in compliance shall be considered conclusive proof under this 414 part.

(2) If the department finds any person or firm guilty of
any of the grounds set forth in subsection (1), it may enter an
order imposing one or more of the following penalties:

418 (a) Refusal to approve an application for certification.

(b) Revocation or suspension of a certificate.

420 (c) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed421 \$1,000 for each count or separate offense.

422

(d) Issuance of a reprimand.

(e) Placement of the <u>certificateholder</u> radiologic
technologist on probation for such period of time and subject to
such conditions as the department may specify, including
requiring the <u>certificateholder</u> radiologic technologist to
submit to treatment, to undertake further relevant education or
training, to take an examination, or to work under the
supervision of a licensed practitioner.

(3) The department shall not reinstate <u>a person's the</u>
certificate <del>of a radiologic technologist</del>, or cause a certificate
to be issued to a person it has deemed unqualified, until such
time as the department is satisfied that such person has
complied with all the terms and conditions set forth in the
final order and is capable of safely engaging in the practice of
<u>his or her certified profession</u> radiologic technology.

 437 (5) A final disciplinary action taken against a
 438 <u>certificateholder</u> radiologic technologist in another Page 16 of 20

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2006 CS jurisdiction, whether voluntary or mandatory, shall be considered conclusive proof of grounds for a disciplinary proceeding under this part. Section 11. Section 468.311, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 468.311 Violations; penalties.--Each of the following acts constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083: Practicing radiologic technology or performing the (1)duties of a radiologist assistant without holding an active certificate to do so. Using or attempting to use a certificate which has (2)been suspended or revoked. The willful practice of radiologic technology or the (3) willful performance of the duties of a radiologist assistant by a student radiologic technologist without a direct supervisor being present. (4)Knowingly allowing a student radiologic technologist to practice radiologic technology or perform the duties of a radiologist assistant without a direct supervisor being present. Obtaining or attempting to obtain a certificate under (5) this part through bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation. Using any the name or title specified in s. 468.302(2) (6) "Certified Radiologic Technologist" or any other name or title which implies that a person is certified to practice radiologic technology or to perform the duties of a radiologist assistant, unless such person is duly certified as provided in this part.

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466 Knowingly concealing information relating to the (7)467 enforcement of this part or rules adopted pursuant to this part. Employing, for the purpose of applying ionizing 468 (8) 469 radiation to, or otherwise practicing radiologic technology or 470 any of the duties of a radiologist assistant on, any human 471 being, any individual who is not certified under the provisions of this part. 472 Section 12. Section 468.3115, Florida Statutes, is amended 473 474 to read: Injunctive relief.--The practice of radiologic 475 468.3115 476 technology or the performance of the duties of a radiologist 477 assistant in violation of this part, or the performance of any 478 act prohibited in this part, is declared a nuisance inimical to 479 the public health, safety, and welfare of this state. In addition to other remedies provided in this part, the 480 department, or any state attorney in the name of the people of 481 this state, may bring an action for an injunction to restrain 482 483 such violation until compliance with the provisions of this part and the rules adopted pursuant to this part has been 484 485 demonstrated to the satisfaction of the department. Section 13. Subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section 486 487 468.314, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 488 468.314 Advisory Council on Radiation Protection; appointment; terms; powers; duties.--489 490 The Advisory Council on Radiation Protection is (1)created within the Department of Health and shall consist of 16 491 15 persons to be appointed by the secretary for 3-year terms. 492 493 The council shall be comprised of: (2) Page 18 of 20

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494	(a) A certified radiologic technologist-radiographer.
495	(b) A certified radiologic technologist-nuclear medicine.
496	(c) A certified radiologic technologist-therapy.
497	(d) A basic X-ray machine operator or a licensed
498	practitioner who employs such an operator.
499	(e) A board-certified radiologist.
500	(f) A board-certified nuclear medicine physician.
501	(g) A certified health physicist.
502	(h) A certified radiologist assistant.
503	(i) (h) A representative from the administration of a
504	hospital affiliated with a radiologic technology educational
505	program.
506	<u>(j)</u> An expert in environmental radiation matters.
507	<u>(k)</u> A chiropractic radiologist.
508	<u>(1)</u> A board-certified podiatric physician.
509	(m) (l) A board-certified radiological physicist.
510	<u>(n)</u> A board-certified therapeutic radiologist or board-
511	certified radiation oncologist.
512	(o) (n) Two persons, neither of whom has ever been
513	certified <u>pursuant to this part</u> <del>as a radiologic technologist</del> or
514	been a member of any closely related profession.
515	(5)(a) The council may recommend to the department
516	examination procedures for applicants and minimum requirements
517	for qualification of applicants.
518	(b) The council shall:
519	1. Recommend to the department a code of ethics for the
520	certificateholder's practice of his or her certified profession
521	<del>radiologic technology</del> . Page 19 of 20

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE	ATIVES	ΤА	ΞN	Е	S	Е	R	Р	Е	R	F	0	Е	S	U	0	Н	Α	D		R	0	L	F
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522 2. Make recommendations for the improvement of continuing523 education courses.

3. Make recommendations to the department on matters relating to the practice of radiologic technology, the performance of the duties of a radiologist assistant, and radiation protection.

528 4. Study the utilization of medical imaging and
529 nonionizing radiation, such as nuclear magnetic resonance or
530 similarly related technology, and make recommendations to the
531 department on the personnel appropriate to conduct such
532 procedures and the minimum qualifications for such personnel.
533 Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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