

MSRT Special Legislative NEWSLETTER

TO: Fellow Technologists and ALL other Interested Parties.

FROM: Donita Shipman, RT(R)(M), 1994-1995 MSRT LAC Chairman

1995 is a historic year for the profession of Radiology. The world will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the "X" ray by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen. I am also very optimistic that Missouri can make this an historic year in our profession by passing legislation that requires all persons using ionizing radiation on human beings be certified.

My GOALS to achieve the passage of this legislation are as follows:

1. Educate the technologists of our state in the importance of State Certification as it pertains to their role in the future of health care.
2. Educate the general public of the importance of only "qualified" individuals performing radiologic procedures.
3. Work closely with the Missouri Hospital Association, the State Legislature, and any other organizations that may be involved in getting the legislation passed.
4. Set up a phone network of technologists throughout the state. This network will allow all technologists to be actively involved in the legislative process. I would like to have one contact person from each MSRT district to be my main contact. This person would then contact a person from each legislative district in their district, and that person would then contact other technologists in their district. This would allow each Senator to receive calls or letters from his/her own constituents. With today's hectic schedules and the quickness in which things can happen at the state capitol, I feel that this would be the most effective way to communicate with fellow technologists.
5. Get as many technologists as possible to attend all legislative hearings.
6. Organize "Lobby Days" for technologists when our legislation reaches the Senate floor, and again when it is debated by the House of Representatives.

The beginning proposal for State Certification includes:

1. Creating a "Board of Ionizing Radiation". This board will be an advisory board consisting of 13 members. Their job will be to advise the Department of Health in the development of regulations pertaining to the administration of ionizing radiation to human beings.
2. Categories of Certification. These categories are general radiography, limited radiography, radiation therapy, and nuclear medicine technology.

3. A "Grandfather" clause, as required by Missouri law.
4. Minimum standards for training, education, and continuing education. These standards shall be equivalent to national standards, where they exist.
5. Establish penalties for non compliance.

The bill will be introduced in the Senate, with Senator Joe Moseley, from Columbia, as the sponsor. The bill was pre-filed in December, and is known as Senate Bill 121(SB-121). Anyone that would like a copy of the bill may contact their senate representative and ask for Senate Bill 121.

I encourage all technologist to talk to their Dentist concerning this legislation. The Dental Association has worked against our legislation because dental assistants are included in this legislation. Dental hygienists are exempted because radiologic technology is included in their training and licensing exam, but no training is currently required of dental assistants even though dental assistants perform dental x-rays. Please encourage your dentist to call or write the president of the Dental Association or the State Dental Board with his/her support of our legislation.

I also encourage all technologist to write to their Senator. I have enclosed a form letter that you may copy and use if you like, but a personal letter sometimes gets more attention. Here is a list of facts that you may include in your personal letter.

FACT: Over 90% of all radiation the General Public receives is from Medical x-ray examinations. Less than 10% of all radiation received is from Nuclear Power Plants, Nuclear fallout, or Research accidents.

FACT: There is no law that protects the consumer-patient within the state from Unqualified operators of x-ray machines, except in the area of mammography.

FACT: It is estimated that 40% of the people administering ionizing radiation have not received any formal education in Radiologic Technology.

FACT: Misdiagnosis is a large concern related to unqualified persons performing radiologic exams. Films that are of low quality due to incorrect exposure or poor positions result in anatomy or disease processes not being imaged. A physician can only make a proper diagnosis with a quality film.

On the back page of this newsletter please find a map with Missouri Senatorial Districts outlined. If you would be willing to be a contact person for distribution of legislative information, or if you would like to be on the phone network please fill out the following form and forward it to me.

Your help and support for the Missouri Society of Radiologic Technologist's Legislative Activities are greatly appreciated.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE WORK _____ HOME _____

_____ Please put me on the mailing list.
 _____ Please put me in the calling contact list.

Mail this to: Donita Shipman, RT(R) (M) or call: 816-342-5376 (H)
 HCR 62, Box 10 816-827-9530 (W)
 Smithton, MO. 65350

Dear Senator,

I am writing to ask that you support Senate Bill 121. I feel that this legislation is very important to the future of health care. This bill addresses the certification of persons administering ionizing radiation to human beings. I feel that SB 121 will serve to protect the consumer-patient in three ways:

1. First and foremost, it will reduce the over-exposure which can cause cancer, life shortening, and mutations of future generations.
2. Second, it will help insure that diagnostic information is presented for interpretation by the physician. Information is often lost when unqualified persons incorrectly position a patient for an x-ray exam, thus failing to demonstrate anatomy correctly. These unqualified persons also may not use correct technical factors for an adequate film, thus causing poor quality exams. Both of these scenarios can cause a misdiagnosis of disease for the patient which can result in unnecessary repeated exams, additional radiation exposure, undue suffering or even possibly death when disease is not detected.
3. Third, this bill helps control the cost of health care. We all know that early diagnosis and treatments is the best way to reduce health care costs. Failure to diagnosis disease at the earliest opportunity can only lead to more expensive treatment courses later. Delayed diagnosis also contributes to lawsuits for negligence.

There is an emergency which exists in the State of Missouri. The unknowing public is being needlessly subjected to unqualified persons performing their radiologic exams every day! I ask that you, as an elected representative of the public's best interests, support Senate Bill 121.

For the health and safety of Missouri citizens—our patients and loved one—I ask for passage of Senate Bill 121.

Respectfully:

Address to write your **State Representative**:

The Honorable [insert name]
State Representative
House of Representatives Post Office
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Address to write your **State Senator**:

The Honorable [insert name]
State Senator
Senate Post Office
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Address to write to **Governor Carnahan**:

Governor Mel Carnahan
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Address to write to the **Director of Dept. of Health**:

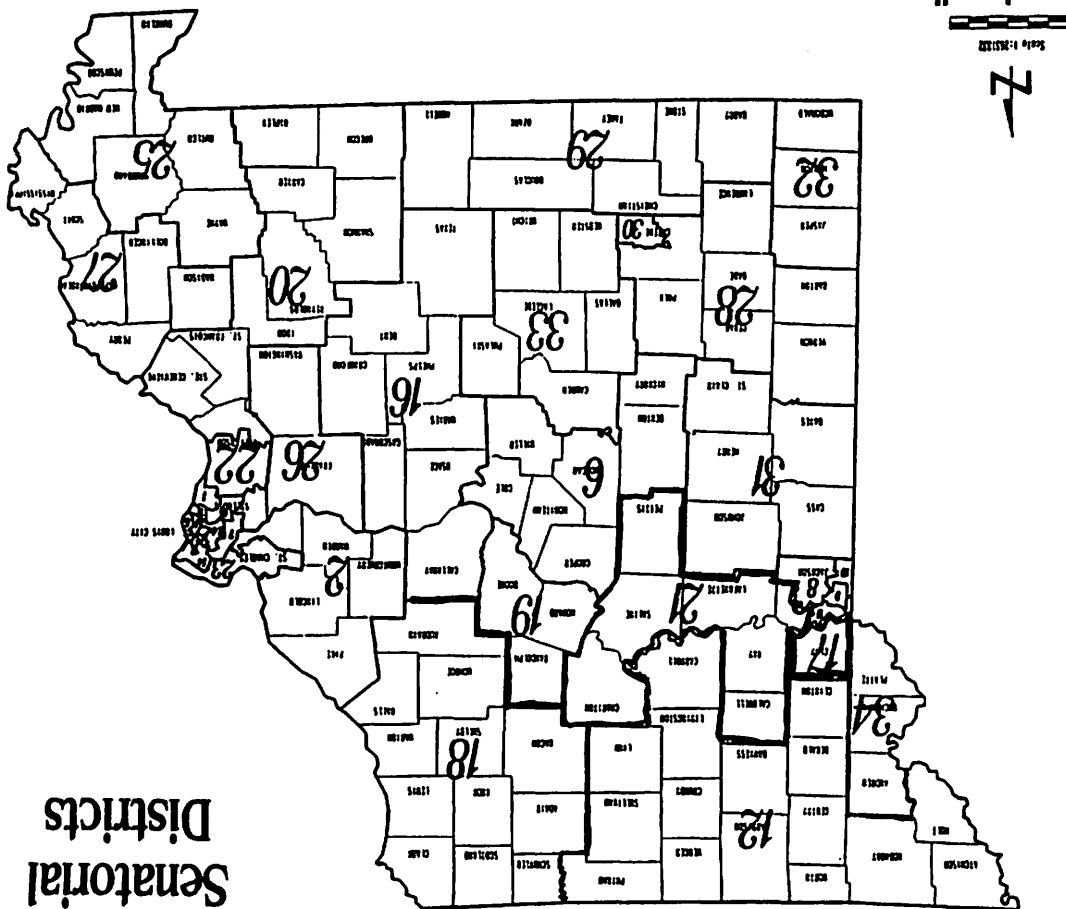
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Missouri Society of Radiologic Technologists
April 26-29, 1995
Marina Bay Resort--Lake Ozark, MO.

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Granite City IL 62040



Missouri's
Senatorial
Districts

