

Subject X-rays and sources of ionizing radiation

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Overview

The Health Department regulates sources of ionizing radiation and establishes qualifications for persons who may operate this equipment. This bill modifies a section governing registration of x-ray equipment and other sources of ionizing radiation and qualifications for specific occupations that operate sources of ionizing radiation.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Registration; fees. Amends § 144.121, subd. 1. Changes a term used in a subdivision requiring payment of fees for x-ray equipment and sources of ionizing radiation.
2	Fees for ionizing radiation-producing equipment. Amends § 144.121, subd. 1a. Clarifies that a facility with other sources of ionizing radiation must pay an initial or annual renewal registration fee, and specifies that the fee amount added to a facility's base fee is a fee for each x-ray tube. Makes other technical changes.
3	Handheld dental x-ray equipment. Adds subd. 1d to § 144.121. Requires a facility that uses handheld dental x-ray equipment to comply with section 144.121.
4	Inspections. Amends § 144.121, subd. 2. Makes clarifying changes to a subdivision requiring the commissioner of health to perform radiation safety inspections.
5	Examination for individual operating x-ray systems. Amends § 144.121, subd. 5. Requires an individual operating x-ray systems (rather than x-ray equipment as in current law) on living humans to have passed a national or state exam. Strikes a direction to the commissioner to establish criteria for

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	examination approval, and in a new paragraph (b) lists qualifications for individuals to operate x-ray systems.
	A new paragraph (c) exempts individuals in a training or education program for most of the occupations listed in paragraph (b) from the examination requirement, for the scope and duration of the training or education program.
	Paragraph (d) specifies what the Minnesota examination for limited scope x-ray operators must include.
	A new paragraph (e) specifies what the examination for bone densitometry equipment operators must include.
	Paragraph (f) specifies that bone densitometry equipment operators are required to apply to take the exam and pay a \$25 processing fee.
6	Limited scope x-ray and bone densitometry equipment operator practice. Amends § 144.121, subd. 5a. Clarifies the scope of practice for a limited scope x-ray operator and bone densitometry operator, provided the operator has passed the required exam.
7	Cardiovascular technologist practice. Adds subd. 5c to § 144.121. Specifies qualifications of a cardiovascular technologist in order to assist with the operation of fluoroscopy equipment. Exempts a cardiovascular technologist participating in a training or education program from the examination requirements for the scope and duration of the training or education program.
8	Nuclear medicine technologist practice. Adds subd. 5d to § 144.121. Specifies qualifications of a nuclear medicine technologist to operate a fusion imaging device, dual imaging device, or stand-alone computed tomography x-ray system. Exempts a nuclear medicine technologist who meets certain requirements and who is participating in a training or education program from the examination requirement for the scope and duration of the training or education program.
9	Radiation therapy technologist practice. Adds subd. 5e to § 144.121. Specifies qualifications for a radiation therapy technologist to operate radiation therapy accelerator and simulator x-ray systems and stand-alone computed tomography x-ray systems. Exempts a technologist who meets certain requirements and who is participating in a training or education

Section	Description
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	program from the examination requirement for the scope and duration of the training or education program.
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10	Repealer.
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	Repeals section 144.121, subd. 3 (exempting veterinarians from a requirement to conduct densitometry and sensitometry tests as part of ionizing radiation quality assurance) and subd. 5b (requiring the commissioner to grant a variance to a facility for the scope of practice of an x-ray operator if health care delivery would be compromised if a variance was not granted).
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