



HR0565

LRB104 15968 ECR 29210 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Interventional cardiologists, radiologists, and other health care professionals in Illinois are routinely exposed to scatter radiation during fluoroscopically guided procedures, and they have long relied on heavy lead aprons for personal protection; and

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WHEREAS, Decades of reliance on wearable lead aprons have caused a substantial burden of occupational injury, including chronic back pain, spinal disc disease, joint degeneration, and other serious orthopedic conditions that shorten careers and diminish quality of life for health professionals; and

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WHEREAS, It is estimated that between 10,000 and 12,000 Illinois health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, and technologists, are required to wear lead aprons in cardiac catheterization laboratories and interventional suites on a routine basis, placing a large segment of the health workforce at risk of such preventable injuries; and

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WHEREAS, Current law in Illinois Administrative Code Title 32 Part 360 requires wearable protective garments as the standard shielding for fluoroscopic procedures, which has the effect of prohibiting hospitals and facilities from adopting fully "lead-free" interventional labs; and

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1 WHEREAS, New technology, known as Enhanced Radiation
2 Protection Systems (ERPS), provides non-wearable, externally
3 mounted radiation shielding that meets or exceeds the
4 protective equivalent of 0.5 millimeters of lead under
5 clinical use conditions while eliminating the long-term
6 orthopedic hazards associated with wearable lead garments; and

7 WHEREAS, Modernizing protective garment regulations to
8 allow the use of ERPS as an equivalent protective option would
9 permit Illinois facilities to implement lead-free labs while
10 maintaining or exceeding existing levels of radiation
11 protection without eliminating safety standards; and

12 WHEREAS, Several states, including Michigan, Colorado, and
13 Florida, have recently updated their medical radiation
14 protection regulations to provide a regulatory pathway for
15 ERPS adoption; and

16 WHEREAS, The Illinois Chapter of the American College of
17 Cardiology (IL-ACC) formally requested in a July letter to
18 IEMA-OHS to amend Part 360 in order to establish a clear
19 approval process for ERPS, supported by manufacturer data,
20 peer-reviewed studies, and facility-specific safety protocols;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, Other organizations that are members of the
2 Modern Radiation Policy Alliance, including the Society for
3 Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions and the Illinois
4 Association of Orthopedic Surgeons, support the inclusion of
5 the amendments to allow for ERPS; and

6 WHEREAS, Protecting the health and longevity of Illinois'
7 frontline cardiovascular and interventional specialists is
8 critical in ensuring that patients across the State continue
9 to have access to life-saving procedures, and reducing
10 preventable workplace injuries will strengthen our health care
11 workforce at a time of increasing demand; and

12 WHEREAS, Updating Illinois' rules to accommodate ERPS will
13 better protect health care professionals, reduce workplace
14 injuries, and align Illinois' standards with peer
15 jurisdictions while preserving the core mission of patient
16 safety; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we strongly urge the Illinois Emergency Management Agency -
20 Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) to heed the petition
21 and comments submitted by the Illinois Chapter of the American
22 College of Cardiology (IL-ACC) and supported by the Modern
23 Radiation Policy Alliance and to promulgate rules establishing

1 a pathway for the approval and safe use of Enhanced Radiation
2 Protection Systems (ERPS) in Illinois; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Acting Director of IEMA-OHS, the Joint
5 Committee on Administrative Rules, and the Governor of the
6 State of Illinois.