

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 02, 2018 7:56:13 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 4:02 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD

First Name: Dianna

Last Name: Cody

Title: Clinical Operations Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Imaging Physics Department, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Email: dcody@mdanderson.org

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: NA

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

This letter is intended for the Sunset Commission members, prior to the public hearing for the Sunset Advisory Staff Report of the Texas Medical (scheduled for April 25 & 26, 2018). My issue is not addressed by the current Staff report, but is important to the practice of Medical Physics in the State of Texas. There is a branch of Medical Physics related to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) that has become exceedingly complex over the last 10 years or so. In order to maintain acceptable quality of MRI exams, an advanced level of technical expertise is required. This technical expertise is nearly impossible to achieve without focus on MRI physics and little else.

Our current licensure regulations for Medical Physicists do not include a limited or restricted option for MRI only. This has resulted in several less than optimal conditions in the state of Texas:

- Many facilities are performing sub-optimal MRI exams because they lack the required technical expertise of an MRI physicist.
- Very little MRI development can be done in the State of Texas because these Medical Physicists cannot practice without a license.
- When new MRI technology becomes available, Texas facilities are less likely to be able to utilize it appropriately due to the lack of technical expertise.

The current regulations do not serve the population of this great state; rather, they are definitely diminishing the level of care that our patients can receive, particularly at non-academic medical facilities (which represent the vast majority of Texas healthcare delivery sites).

It does not seem that cumbersome to introduce a limited scope license for Medical Physicists that requires appropriate credentials such as board examination (for example, the American Board of Medical Physics offers an annual Board exam specific to the field of MRI Physics). The other requirements for licensure would likely remain consistent.

Several national organizations recognize the role of “MRI-Scientist” such as the American College of Radiology (within its imaging accreditation programs), the Joint Commission (a major hospital accreditation organization), and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

Please put this issue on the list of items for the Sunset Advisory Staff to consider. It would require a minor change to the current regulation, but has the potential to positively impact a very sizeable proportion of our state’s population.

Thank you very much for your attention to this issue. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or need any additional information.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree