

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Handheld portable x-ray systems

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Overview

Minnesota Rules currently allows portable x-ray equipment to be used when it is impractical to transfer a patient to a stationary x-ray system. This bill allows facilities to use handheld portable x-ray systems that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, have at least five years of use history, and use a backscatter shield that satisfies certain requirements.

Section

1 Authorization to use certain handheld portable x-ray systems. Adds section 144.1215. Allows facilities to use handheld portable x-ray systems that meet the requirements of this section, requires training for system operators, and exempts systems from certain shielding requirements found in rules governing radiation-producing equipment.

Subd. 1. Definition; handheld portable x-ray system. Defines handheld portable x-ray system as an x-ray system designed to be hand-carried and for handheld use without a fixed mounting or stand.

Subd. 2. Use authorized. Allows a facility to use a handheld portable x-ray system if the system has been approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, has at least five years of use history, and uses a backscatter shield that meets the listed requirements. Prohibits the use of a handheld portable x-ray system if the backscatter shield is broken or not permanently affixed to the system. Prohibits the commissioner of health from limiting the use of these systems to situations when it is impractical to transfer a patient to a stationary x-ray system. Allows certain elements of the system to be handheld.

Section

Subd. 3. Training required; training records. Requires operators of handheld portable x-ray systems to be trained in using the systems, and requires facilities to maintain training records and make them available to the commissioner for review.

Subd. 4. Exemptions from certain shielding requirements. Exempts handheld portable x-ray systems from:

- shielding requirements in Minnesota Rules, part 4732.0365, item B;
- requirements for the location of the x-ray control console or utilization of a protective barrier in Minnesota Rules, part 4732.0800, subpart 2, item B, subitems (2) and (3); and
- a requirement for visual indication from an operator's protected position at an x-ray control in Minnesota Rules, part 4732.0800, subpart 2, item C.