

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Carter, Gordly, Courtney, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	Kruse
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Shannon Strumpfer, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/23, 4/25, 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (health care facilities) from employing or contracting with surgical technologist unless surgical technologist meets certain requirements. Authorizes Department of Human Services to issue a waiver for facilities that demonstrate that they are unable to employ sufficient number of surgical technologists that meet the requirements. Requires Department of Human Services to impose and collect fees to meet the costs of carrying out the duties. Prohibits health care facilities from allowing surgical technologist to serve as circulating nurse. Imposes civil penalty, not to exceed \$5000, for violations by health care facility. Declares emergency.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Required knowledge and duties of surgical technologists
- Potential fees
- Safety in the operating room
- Patient protection

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Revises definition of ‘surgical technology.’ Expands bill by prohibiting hospitals or ambulatory surgical centers from contracting with surgical technologists who do not meet the training requirements. Requires Department of Human Services to impose and collect fees to meet the costs of carrying out the duties of the measure.

BACKGROUND: Surgical technologists, also called scrubs and surgical or operating room technicians, assist in surgical operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. Surgical technologists are members of operating room teams, which most commonly include surgeons, anesthesiologists, and circulating nurses. Before an operation, surgical technologists help prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes, and sterile solutions. They assemble both sterile and non-sterile equipment, as well as adjust and check it to ensure it is working properly. Technologists also get patients ready for surgery by washing, shaving, and disinfecting incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating table, and cover them with sterile surgical “drapes.” Technologists also observe patients’ vital signs, check charts, and assist the surgical team with putting on sterile gowns and gloves.