

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	3 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Morrisette, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	Kruse, Morse
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits a person from practicing as a surgical technologist unless person is registered. Outlines the process, application fee and term lengths for registration. Allows a nonregistered person to work in a medically underserved area of Oregon if: 1) a health facility is unable to employ or contract with a sufficient number of registered technologists; 2) the facility maintains a record of its attempt to first employ and contract registered technologists; and, 3) the facility notifies the registering agency and provides documentation the nonregistered person has completed continuing education. Requires facilities to supervise surgical technologists and ensures technologist person only those duties within scope of practice. Prohibits facility from allowing technologist to serve as a circulating nurse, but allows person to assist in duties of circulating nurse that are within technologist's education, training and experience. Allows a person to be eligible for registration, without meeting all the registration criterion, if the person worked as a surgical technologist for two of the three years prior to January 1, 2011. Outlines continuing educational requirements to maintain surgical technologist credentials. Establishes civil penalties for facilities that violate employment or scope of practice requirements for technologists. Outlines circumstances when health care providers are not subject to provisions of the measure. Requires Oregon Health Authority to establish rules to carry out provisions or for denial of a person's registration. Establishes that registration fees be deposited in the Oregon Health Authority Fund. Sets operative dates for sections of the bill. Declares an emergency effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Adequacy of fee to cover expenses
- Number of surgical technician accreditation programs in county and number of people trained
- Other types of professions that require certification
- National perspective on surgical technician policies
- Hospital not experiencing risk management problems from using non-certified surgical technicians
- Infection rates in hospitals

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Health care facilities employ or contract with surgical technologists who meet educational, training, and certification requirements to prepare an operating room or sterile field for surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies, instruments and equipment using sterile techniques, passing instruments, equipment or supplies, sponging or suctioning an operative site, preparing and cutting suture material, transferring fluids or drugs, holding retractors and assisting in counting sponges, needles, supplies and instruments.

A health care facility may employ or contract with a person as a surgical technologist who does not meet the educational, training and certification requirements only after the facility petitions the Department of Human Services for a waiver. The Department may grant a waiver only if the Department finds that the health care facility has demonstrated that it has made a diligent and thorough effort to employ or contract with surgical technologists who meet the requirements set forth above. A waiver granted may not exceed six months, however the Department may grant additional waivers to a health care facility if the Department finds that no viable alternative to a wavier is available.

2/4/2010 11:48:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.