

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/17/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/09, 04/17

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

Exc: 1 - Clem

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits health care facilities from allowing a person without specified qualifications and education to practice surgical technology. Specifies continuing education requirements. Provides an exception for health care facilities in rural or medically underserved areas of the state. Directs the Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules necessary to carry out provisions of the bill relating to surgical technology. Clarifies operative date for rural or medically underserved facilities as July 1, 2017. Sets July 1, 2016 as operative date. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Education and certification standards
- Patient safety and protection
- Current surgical tech requirements
- Hospital concerns
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Adds rural and medically underserved community to definition of health care facility. Deletes 15 hours continuing education requirement and replaces with "every two years." Clarifies operative date for rural or medically underserved facilities as July 1, 2017. Sets July 1, 2016 as operative date.

BACKGROUND:

Surgical technologists are members of an operating room team, which generally includes the surgeon(s), anesthesiologist and circulating nurse(s). The role of a surgical technologist includes: pre-surgery techniques, assist the surgeon during surgery and performs post-surgery duties. Currently, there are more than 300 accredited surgical technology programs; and these programs are generally 12 to 24 months in length resulting in a certificate or an Associate's Degree.

Currently, surgical technologists are not required to meet any educational or certification requirements in Oregon.