

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/27/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 05/20, 05/27

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, 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:

- Trained and certified technologists help to reduce infection rates and keep patients safe
- Hospitals follow similar procedures for allied health care professionals
- Exceptions for rural and underserved areas
- Need for continuing education to understand new techniques, equipment and technologies
- Challenges of on-the-job training
- Licensure and registration versus certification and education

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.