

HB 4089 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/20/20

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Fagan, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

Exc: 1 - Knopp

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits an individual who is enrolled in or completed a registered apprenticeship program in surgical technology, that is approved by the Oregon Health Authority in rule or accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, to practice in a health care facility. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of current surgical technician workforce shortage
- Potential benefits of apprenticeship program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics states that surgical technologists assist by preparing operating rooms, setting up medical equipment and supplies, assisting physicians during surgery, and managing the sterile field. Surgical technologists work as members of a health care team alongside physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, and other healthcare workers, often in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.

House Bill 2876 (2015) prohibits hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers from allowing an individual without specified qualifications and education to practice as a surgical technologist. The bill also directed the Oregon Health Authority to approve a national accreditation organization as a condition of employment for newly practicing surgical technologists, and established exemptions for surgical technologists with recent experience and graduates of military training programs. Additionally, the bill provided an exception for health care facilities in rural or medically underserved areas of the state.

House Bill 4089 allows an individual enrolled in or who has completed a specified apprenticeship program to practice as a surgical technologist in Oregon.