
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1805 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WARD, RAPP, JAMES, ZIMMERMAN, DeLUCA, JOZWIAK,
WATSON, WHEELAND, MILNE, GILLEN AND SCHWEYER,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

AN ACT

1 Regulating the practice of surgical technology and surgical
2 technologists.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Surgical
7 Technologist Regulation Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Health care facility." A hospital, ambulatory surgical
13 center or freestanding surgical outpatient facility.

14 "Surgical technologist." An individual who is employed or
15 contracted by a health care facility to perform surgical
16 technology tasks and functions.

17 "Surgical technology." Surgical patient care that includes,

1 but is not limited to, the following tasks or functions:

2 (1) preparing the operating room and the sterile field
3 for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment
4 is functioning properly and safely and preparing sterile
5 supplies, instruments and equipment using sterile technique;
6 and

7 (2) as directed, performing tasks at the sterile field,
8 including:

9 (i) maintaining asepsis and correcting breaks in the
10 sterile field;

11 (ii) passing supplies, equipment or instruments
12 according to the needs of the surgical team;

13 (iii) sponging or suctioning an operative site;

14 (iv) preparing and cutting suture material;

15 (v) transferring and irrigating with fluids;

16 (vi) transferring but not administering drugs within
17 the sterile field;

18 (vii) handling specimens;

19 (viii) holding retractors and other instruments;

20 (ix) applying electrocautery to clamps on bleeders;

21 (x) connecting drains to suction apparatus;

22 (xi) applying dressings to closed wounds; and

23 (xii) performing sponge, needle, supply and
24 instrument counts with the registered nurse circulator.

25 Section 3. Requirements for health care facilities.

26 The following apply:

27 (1) A health care facility shall not employ or otherwise
28 contract for the services of a surgical technologist in a
29 health care facility unless the individual meets at least one
30 of the following:

1 (i) has successfully completed a program accredited
2 by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health
3 Education Programs or other nationally accredited
4 educational program for surgical technologists and holds
5 and maintains the Certified Surgical Technologist
6 credential administered by the National Board of Surgical
7 Technology and Surgical Assisting or its successor;

8 (ii) has successfully completed an appropriate
9 training program for surgical technology in the United
10 States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard
11 or in the United States Public Health Service;

12 (iii) provides evidence that the individual was
13 employed to practice surgical technology in a health care
14 facility on the effective date of this act or was
15 employed to practice surgical technology during the two
16 years immediately preceding the effective date of this
17 act; or

18 (iv) is in the service of the Federal Government, to
19 the extent the individual is performing duties related to
20 that service.

21 (2) A health care facility may employ or contract an
22 individual to practice surgical technology during the 12-
23 month period immediately following successful completion of a
24 surgical technology program, but may not continue to be
25 employed or contracted with beyond that period without
26 documentation that the employee or contractor holds and
27 maintains the Certified Surgical Technologist credential
28 required under paragraph (1)(i).

29 Section 4. Continuing education.

30 (a) General rule.--An individual who qualifies to practice

1 surgical technology in a health care facility under section 3(1)
2 (i) or (ii) must annually complete 15 hours of continuing
3 education to remain qualified to practice as a surgical
4 technologist.

5 (b) Verification.--A health care facility that employs or
6 contracts with an individual to practice surgical technology
7 shall verify that the individual meets the continuing education
8 requirements under subsection (a) or, if applicable, that the
9 individual holds and maintains the Certified Surgical
10 Technologist credential as required under section 3(1)(i).

11 Section 5. Exception.

12 A health care facility may employ or otherwise contract with
13 an individual who does not meet the requirements of section 2 to
14 practice surgical technology in a health care facility if:

15 (1) after a diligent and thorough effort has been made,
16 the health care facility is unable to employ or contract with
17 a sufficient number of qualified surgical technologists who
18 meet the requirements of section 3; and

19 (2) the health care facility makes a written record of
20 its efforts under paragraph (1) and retains the record at the
21 health care facility.

22 Section 6. Applicability.

23 Nothing in this act shall prohibit any licensed practitioner
24 from performing surgical technology tasks or functions if the
25 practitioner is acting within the scope of the practitioner's
26 license.

27 Section 7. Duties of Department of Health.

28 The Department of Health shall enforce the provisions of this
29 act.

30 Section 8. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 60 days.