
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 730 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY J. WARD, K. WARD, ARGALL, YAW, MENSCH, STREET AND
KILLION, JUNE 7, 2019

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 7, 2019

AN ACT

1 Providing for certification of central service technicians;
2 imposing continuing education requirements on central service
3 technicians; and providing for duties of hospitals and
4 ambulatory surgical facilities and the Department of Health.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Central
9 Service Technician Certification Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Ambulatory surgical facility." As defined in section 802.1
15 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the
16 Health Care Facilities Act.

17 "Central service technician." A person who provides the
18 services of inspecting, assembling, decontamination,
19 preparation, packaging and sterilization of reusable medical

1 instruments or devices in a hospital or an ambulatory surgical
2 facility.

3 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

4 "Health care practitioner." As defined in section 103 of
5 the Health Care Facilities Act.

6 "Hospital." As defined in section 802.1 of the Health Care
7 Facilities Act.

8 Section 3. Certification.

9 (a) A person shall not function as a central service
10 technician in a health care facility and a health care facility
11 shall not employ or otherwise contract for the services of a
12 central service technician unless the person has successfully
13 passed a nationally accredited central service exam for central
14 service technicians and holds and maintains one of the following
15 credentials:

16 (1) Certified registered central service technician
17 credential.

18 (2) Certified sterile processing and distribution
19 technician credential.

20 (b) Exemption.--The certification requirement under
21 subsection (a) shall not apply to a person who has been employed
22 or otherwise contracted for services as a central service
23 technician in a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility on or
24 before the effective date of this section.

25 Section 4. Employment and continuing education.

26 (a) New employees.--A central service technician who does
27 not meet the requirements under section 3 shall have 18 months
28 from the date of hire to comply with section 3.

29 (b) Continuing education.--A person who qualifies to
30 function as a central service technician in a hospital or an

1 ambulatory surgical facility under section 3 shall annually
2 complete 10 hours of continuing education to remain qualified as
3 a central service technician. The continuing education required
4 under this subsection shall be in areas related to the functions
5 of a central service technician.

6 (c) Facility responsibility.--

7 (1) A hospital or ambulatory surgical facility shall
8 maintain documentation to verify that a person meets the
9 certification requirements under section 3(a).

10 (2) If a person does not meet the certification
11 requirements under section 3(a), a hospital or ambulatory
12 surgical facility shall maintain documentation of a central
13 service technician's dates of employment or the contract
14 period when the central service technician provided services
15 to the hospital or ambulatory surgical facility to verify
16 that the central service technician meets the exemption
17 requirements under section 3(b).

18 Section 5. Scope of practice.

19 Nothing in this act may be construed to prohibit any of the
20 following persons from performing the tasks or functions of a
21 central service technician:

22 (1) A health care practitioner.

23 (2) A dental assistant or an individual who is licensed
24 or registered under the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76),
25 known as The Dental Law.

26 (3) A student or intern performing the functions of a
27 central service technician under the direct supervision of a
28 health care practitioner as part of the student's or intern's
29 training or internship.

30 (4) A person who holds and maintains a registration,

1 certification or license to perform health care services by a
2 nationally accredited credentialing organization.

3 Section 6. Departmental duties.

4 The department shall administer the provisions of this act
5 and promulgate and adopt regulations as may be necessary to
6 implement this act.

7 Section 7. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect January 1, 2020.