

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 81

PRINTER NO. 4475

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 28, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Kauffman

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 81 establishes a freestanding act, the Central Service Technician and Surgical Technologist Regulation Act, providing for the certification of surgical technologists and central service technicians to be administered by the Department of Health.

Requirements for Central Service Technicians:

- Successfully pass a nationally accredited central service exam for central service technicians and hold one of the following credentials:
 - Certified registered central service technician credential; or
 - Certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential.
- Annually complete 10 hours of continuing education related to the functions of a central service technician.

Technicians shall have 18 months from the date of hire to comply with certification requirements. House Bill 81 provides an exemption from certification requirements for persons employed or contracted as a central service technician by a health care facility on or before the effective date of this act.

Health care facilities must maintain documentation that employed or contracted individuals meet the certification or exemption requirements of this chapter.

The Department of Health shall administer the provisions of this chapter and promulgate and adopt regulations as necessary.

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Requirements for Surgical Technologists:

- Meet at least one of the following:
 - Successfully complete a program sponsored by an entity holding a nationally recognized institutional or programmatic accreditation and hold and maintain surgical technologist certification from an accredited certification program;
 - Successfully complete an appropriate training program for surgical technology in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force; or
 - Provide evidence that the individual maintains a surgical technologist certification from an accredited certification program, was employed to practice surgical technology by the health care facility on or before the effective date of this section, or was employed to practice surgical technology as the individual's primary function in another health care facility at any time during the two years immediately preceding the effective date of this section.
- Annually comply with the continuing education requirements as necessary to maintain the Certified Surgical Technologist credential and provide proof of compliance to the health care facility upon request.

The bill provides an exemption from certification requirements if a health care facility asserts that, following a diligent search, it is unable to employ or contract with a sufficient number of qualified surgical technologists, and it maintains a written record of its efforts to do so at the facility.

Health care facilities must verify that employed or contracted individuals meet the certification or exemption requirements of this chapter.

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

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 81 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The promulgation of regulations required to be completed by the Department of Health can be accomplished within existing staffing and budget levels. In addition, the Department of Health can review and ensure that the health care facilities maintain the documentation that employed or contracted individuals meet the certification or exemption requirements during their routine inspections; therefore, House Bill 81 will have no fiscal impact to the department.