
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 985 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GINGRICH, BOBACK, KAUFFMAN, SAYLOR, COHEN, MURT
AND M. K. KELLER, APRIL 20, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 20, 2015

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. This term does not include a dental assistant or an
3 individual who is licensed or regulated under the act of May 1,
4 1933 (P.L.216, No.76), known as The Dental Law.

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

6 "Health care practitioner." As defined in section 103 of the
7 act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care
8 Facilities Act.

9 "Hospital." As defined in section 802.1 of the act of July
10 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities
11 Act.

12 Section 3. Certification.

13 (a) Certification.--No person shall function as a central
14 service technician and no hospital or ambulatory surgical
15 facility shall employ or otherwise contract for the services of
16 a central service technician, unless the person has successfully
17 passed a nationally accredited central service examination for
18 central service technicians and holds and maintains a central
19 service technician certification 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 for two
24 consecutive years occurring within the five years immediately
25 before the effective date of this section.

26 Section 4. Employment and continuing education.

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

30 (b) Continuing education.--A person who qualifies to

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

7 (c) Facility responsibility.--

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

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

19 Section 5. Health care practitioners.

20 Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit a health
21 care practitioner from performing the tasks or functions of a
22 central service technician if the tasks or functions are within
23 the scope of practice of the health care practitioner.

24 Section 6. Departmental duties.

25 The department shall administer the provisions of this act
26 and promulgate and adopt such regulations as may be necessary to
27 implement this act.

28 Section 7. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect January 1, 2016.