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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1587 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY KAUFFMAN, PASHINSKI, WARD, DALEY, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
PICKETT, RAPP AND WATSON, JUNE 20, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 20, 2017

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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 "Allied health professional." A person who holds and  
15 maintains a registration, certification or license to perform  
16 health care services by a state or a nationally accredited  
17 credentialing organization.

18 "Ambulatory surgical facility." As defined in section 802.1  
19 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the

1 Health Care Facilities Act.

2 "Central service technician." A person who provides the  
3 services of inspecting, assembling, decontamination,  
4 preparation, packaging and sterilization of reusable medical  
5 instruments or devices in a hospital or an ambulatory surgical  
6 facility.

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

8 "Health care practitioner." As defined in section 103 of  
9 the Health Care Facilities Act.

10 "Hospital." As defined in section 802.1 of the Health Care  
11 Facilities Act.

12 Section 3. Certification.

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

20 (1) Certified registered central service technician  
21 credential.

22 (2) Certified sterile processing and distribution  
23 technician credential.

24 (b) Exemption.--The certification requirement under  
25 subsection (a) shall not apply to a person who has been employed  
26 or otherwise contracted for services as a central service  
27 technician in a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility on or  
28 before December 31, 2018.

29 Section 4. Employment and continuing education.

30 (a) New employees.--A central service technician who does

1 not meet the requirements under section 3 shall have 18 months  
2 from the date of hire to comply with section 3.

3 (b) Continuing education.--A person who qualifies to  
4 function as a central service technician in a hospital or an  
5 ambulatory surgical facility under section 3 shall annually  
6 complete 10 hours of continuing education to remain qualified as  
7 a central service technician. The continuing education required  
8 under this subsection shall be in areas related to the functions  
9 of a central service technician.

10 (c) Facility responsibility.--

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

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

22 Section 5. Health care practitioners and allied health  
23 professionals.

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

27 (1) A health care practitioner.

28 (2) An allied health professional.

29 (3) A dental assistant or an individual who is licensed  
30 or registered under the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76),

1 known as The Dental Law.

2 (4) A student or intern performing the functions of a  
3 central service technician under the direct supervision of a  
4 health care practitioner or an allied health professional as  
5 part of the student's or intern's training or internship.

6 Section 6. Departmental duties.

7 The department shall administer the provisions of this act  
8 and promulgate and adopt such regulations as may be necessary to  
9 implement this act.

10 Section 7. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect January 1, 2019.