



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

SB1749

Introduced 2/9/2011, by Sen. M. Maggie Crotty

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Surgical Technologists Act. Provides that a person may not practice surgical technology in a health care facility unless the person (i) has successfully completed a nationally accredited educational program for surgical technologists and holds and maintains the Certified Surgical Technologist credential, (ii) completed an appropriate training program for surgical technology in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States or in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, (iii) provides evidence that the person was employed to practice surgical technology in a health care facility on the effective date of the Act, or (iv) is in the service of the federal government. Provides that a health care facility may employ a surgical technologist who does not meet the requirements of this Section under specified circumstances. Provides for continuing education requirements. Contains provisions concerning supervision. Effective January 1, 2012.

LRB097 09178 CEL 49313 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Surgical Technologists Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. For the purposes of this Act, the
7 following definitions shall have the following meanings,
8 except where the context requires otherwise:

9 "Health care facility" means a hospital, freestanding
10 surgical outpatient facility, or other similar entity that
11 utilizes surgical technologists.

12 "Surgical technologist" means a person who practices
13 surgical technology.

14 "Surgical technology" means surgical patient care that
15 includes, but is not limited to, the following tasks or
16 functions:

17 (1) preparing the operating room for surgical
18 procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is
19 functioning properly and safely;

20 (2) preparing the operating room and sterile field for
21 surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies,
22 instruments, and equipment using sterile techniques;

23 (3) anticipating the needs of the surgical team based

1 on knowledge of human anatomy and pathophysiology and how
2 they relate to the surgical patient and the patient's
3 surgical procedure; and

4 (4) as directed, performing tasks at the sterile field
5 including:

6 (A) passing supplies, equipment, or instruments;

7 (B) sponging or suctioning an operative site;

8 (C) preparing and cutting suture material;

9 (D) transferring and irrigating with fluids;

10 (E) transferring and administering drugs within
11 the sterile field, according to applicable law;

12 (F) handling specimens;

13 (G) holding retractors and other instruments;

14 (H) applying electrocautery to clamps on bleeders;

15 (I) connecting drains to suction apparatus;

16 (J) applying dressings to closed wounds; and

17 (K) performing sponge, needle, supply, and
18 instrument counts with the registered nurse
19 circulator.

20 Section 10. Applicability.

21 (a) A person may not practice surgical technology in a
22 health care facility unless the person meets one of the
23 following:

24 (1) has successfully completed a nationally accredited
25 educational program for surgical technologists and holds

1 and maintains the Certified Surgical Technologist
2 credential administered by the National Board of Surgical
3 Technology and Surgical Assisting or its successor;

4 (2) has completed an appropriate training program for
5 surgical technology in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
6 Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States or in the United
7 States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps;

8 (3) provides evidence that the person was employed to
9 practice surgical technology in a health care facility on
10 the effective date of this Act; or

11 (4) is in the service of the federal government, to the
12 extent the person is performing duties related to that
13 service.

14 (b) A person may be employed or contracted to practice
15 surgical technology during the 12-month period immediately
16 after the successful completion of a surgical technology
17 program, but may not continue to be employed or contracted with
18 beyond that 12-month period without documentation that the
19 employee or contractor holds and maintains the certified
20 surgical technologist credential required in subsection (a).

21 (c) A health care facility shall not employ or otherwise
22 contract for the services of a surgical technologist unless the
23 person meets the requirements of this Section.

24 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this Section, a
25 health care facility may employ a surgical technologist who
26 does not meet the requirements of this Section if:

1 (1) after a diligent and thorough effort has been made,
2 the health care facility is unable to employ a sufficient
3 number of qualified surgical technologists who meet the
4 requirements of this Section; and

5 (2) the health care facility makes a written record of
6 its efforts under item (1) of this subsection (d) and
7 retains the record at the health care facility.

8 Section 15. Continuing education requirements.

9 (a) A person who qualifies to practice surgical technology
10 in a health care facility under item (2) or (3) of subsection
11 (a) of Section 10 must annually complete 15 hours of continuing
12 education to remain qualified to practice as a surgical
13 technologist.

14 (b) A health care facility that employs or contracts with a
15 person to practice surgical technology shall verify that the
16 person meets the continuing education requirements of
17 subsection (a) and, where applicable, that the person has
18 maintained the Certified Surgical Technologist credential.

19 Section 20. Supervision of surgical technologists. This
20 Act does not repeal or modify any law relating to the
21 supervision of surgical technologists.

22 Section 25. Licensed practitioners. Nothing in this Act
23 shall prohibit any licensed practitioner from performing

1 surgical technology tasks or functions if the person is acting
2 within the scope of his or her license.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
4 1, 2012.