
SENATE BILL 5549

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Senators Becker, Chase, Keiser, and Darneille

Read first time 02/04/13. Referred to Committee on Health Care .

1 AN ACT Relating to the education of surgical technologists;
2 amending RCW 18.215.005, 18.215.010, and 18.215.020; creating a new
3 section; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.215.005 and 1999 c 335 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The registration, competency, and professional education of
8 surgical technologists is in the interest of the public health, safety,
9 and welfare.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.215.010 and 1999 c 335 s 2 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
13 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

15 (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's
16 designee.

17 (3) "Surgical technologist" means ~~((a person, regardless of title,~~
18 ~~who is supervised in the surgical setting under the delegation of~~

1 ~~authority of a health care practitioner acting within the scope of his~~
2 ~~or her license and under the laws of this state))~~ an individual who
3 under the supervision of a licensed health care practitioner in a
4 hospital as defined by RCW 70.41.020 or an ambulatory surgical facility
5 as defined by RCW 70.230.010 is authorized to: (a) Maintain surgical
6 instrument integrity from within the surgical field during surgical
7 procedures; (b) perform surgical support tasks, including instrument
8 and equipment transfers and counts, and managing fluids, specimens, and
9 supplies; (c) identify and correct breaks in asepsis; and (d) perform
10 other surgical tasks as directed.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.215.020 and 1999 c 335 s 3 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 No person may represent oneself as a surgical technologist by use
14 of any title or description or perform the functions of a surgical
15 technologist without being registered by the department under the
16 provisions of this chapter. No individual may hold himself or herself
17 out to be a surgical technologist or perform the functions of a
18 surgical technologist unless the secretary or the secretary's designee
19 certifies the individual as a surgical technologist under the
20 provisions of this chapter. Unless exempted by RCW 18.215.030,
21 applicants for registration as a surgical technologist must submit
22 evidence of: (1) Successful completion of a nationally and
23 programmatically accredited surgical technology program or a surgical
24 technology program offered by the United States armed forces and a
25 current credential as a certified surgical technologist from the
26 national board of surgical technology and surgical assisting or its
27 successor; or (2) employment or contract as a surgical technologist in
28 a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility for a period of one year in
29 the five years immediately preceding January 1, 2015.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health must recommend
31 adoption, amendment, and repeal of rules it deems necessary to
32 administer and enforce this act. The rules must be in accordance, and
33 not inconsistent, with the provisions of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect August 1, 2014.

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