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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to surgical technology; creating pt. XVII
3 of ch. 468, F.S., relating to minimum requirements to
4 practice surgical technology; providing legislative
5 intent; providing definitions; providing requirements for
6 training and certification for a surgical technologist;
7 providing for continuing education requirements; providing
8 contracting, employment, and supervision guidelines for a
9 health care facility employing a certified surgical
10 technologist; allowing a licensed practitioner to perform
11 surgical technology as long as such practitioner is
12 performing within his or her scope of practice; allowing a
13 student or resident in specific areas of medicine to
14 perform surgical technology as long as such student or
15 resident is performing within the scope of his or her
16 duties; requiring the Agency for Health Care
17 Administration to enforce the requirements of this part;
18 providing an effective date.

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20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22 Section 1. Part XVII of chapter 468, Florida Statutes,
23 consisting of sections 468.91, 468.93, 468.95, 468.97, 468.99,
24 468.101, and 468.103, is created to read:

25 468.91 Legislative intent.—The sole legislative purpose
26 for enacting this part is to ensure that every surgical
27 technologist employed in this state meets minimum requirements
28 for safe practice as a member of the surgical care team. It is

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29 the legislative intent that surgical technologists who fail to
30 meet minimum competencies or who otherwise present a danger to
31 the public health and safety be prohibited from practicing in
32 this state.

33 468.93 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

34 (1) "Health care facility" means a hospital, freestanding
35 surgical outpatient facility, or other similar entity that uses
36 surgical technologists.

37 (2) "Surgical technologist" means a person who practices
38 surgical technology.

39 (3) "Surgical technology" means surgical patient care
40 performed collaboratively with the surgical team that includes,
41 but is not limited to, the following tasks or functions:

42 (a) Preparing the operating room for surgical procedures
43 by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and
44 safely;

45 (b) Preparing the operating room and the sterile field for
46 surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies, instruments,
47 and equipment using sterile techniques;

48 (c) Anticipating the needs of the surgical team based on
49 knowledge of human anatomy and pathophysiology and how those
50 needs relate to the surgical patient and the patient's surgical
51 procedure; and

52 (d) Performing tasks at the sterile field, as directed,
53 including:

54 1. Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments.

55 2. Sponging or suctioning an operative site.

56 3. Preparing and cutting suture material.

- 57 4. Transferring and irrigating with fluids.
- 58 5. Transferring and administering drugs within the sterile
 59 field, according to applicable law.
- 60 6. Handling specimens.
- 61 7. Holding retractors and other instruments.
- 62 8. Applying electrocautery to clamps on bleeders.
- 63 9. Connecting drains to suction apparatus.
- 64 10. Applying dressings to closed wounds.
- 65 11. Performing sponge, needle, supply, and instrument
 66 counts with the registered nurse circulator.
- 67 468.95 Training and certification required.—
- 68 (1) A person may not practice surgical technology in a
 69 healthcare facility in this state unless the person meets one of
 70 the following requirements:
- 71 (a) Has successfully completed a nationally accredited
 72 educational program for surgical technologists and holds and
 73 maintains the Certified Surgical Technologist credential
 74 administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and
 75 Surgical Assisting or its successor;
- 76 (b) Has completed an appropriate training program for
 77 surgical technology in the United States Armed Forces or Public
 78 Health Service Commissioned Corps;
- 79 (c) Provides evidence that the person was employed to
 80 practice surgical technology in a healthcare facility on the
 81 effective date of this act; or
- 82 (d) Is in the service of the Federal Government, to the
 83 extent the person is performing duties related to that service.
- 84 (2) A person may be employed or contracted to practice

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85 surgical technology during the 12-month period after successful
 86 completion of a surgical technology program, but may not
 87 continue to be employed or contracted with beyond that period
 88 without documentation that the employee or contractor holds and
 89 maintains the Certified Surgical Technologist credential
 90 required in this section.

91 (3) A health care facility in this state may not employ or
 92 otherwise contract for the services of a surgical technologist
 93 unless the person meets the requirements of this section.

94 468.97 Continuing education required.—

95 (1) A person who qualifies to practice surgical technology
 96 in a healthcare facility under s. 468.95(1)(b) or (c) must
 97 annually complete 15 hours of continuing education to remain
 98 qualified to practice as a surgical technologist.

99 (2) A healthcare facility that employs or contracts with a
 100 person to practice surgical technology shall verify that the
 101 person meets the continuing education requirements of subsection
 102 (1) and, where applicable, that the person has maintained the
 103 Certified Surgical Technologist credential.

104 468.99 Supervision and compliance.—A healthcare facility
 105 shall supervise each person employed or contracted by a
 106 healthcare facility to practice surgical technology according to
 107 the healthcare facility's policies and procedures to ensure that
 108 the person competently performs delegated tasks preoperatively
 109 and in accordance with this part and other applicable laws.

110 468.101 Applicability.—This part does not prohibit any
 111 licensed practitioner from performing surgical technology tasks
 112 or functions if the person is acting within the scope of his or

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113 her license or any medical student, osteopathic student, or
114 resident from performing surgical technology tasks or functions
115 if the person is acting within the scope of his or her duties.

116 468.103 Enforcement.—The Agency for Health Care
117 Administration shall enforce the requirements of this part.

118 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.