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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/02/2013	.	
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The Committee on Health Policy (Garcia) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (11) is added to section 395.0191, Florida Statutes, to read:

395.0191 Staff membership and clinical privileges.—

(11) SURGICAL ASSISTANTS AND SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS.—

(a) Definitions.—As used in this subsection, the term:

1. "Certified surgical assistant" means a surgical assistant who maintains valid and active one of the following certifications:



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13 a. Certified Surgical First Assistant from the National
14 Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting.

15 b. Certified Surgical Assistant from the National Surgical
16 Assistant Association.

17 c. Surgical Assistant-Certified from the American Board of
18 Surgical Assistants.

19 2. "Certified surgical technologist" means a surgical
20 technologist who maintains valid and active certification as a
21 Certified Surgical Technologist from the National Board of
22 Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting.

23 3. "Surgeon" means any health care practitioner as defined
24 in chapter 456 whose scope of practice includes performing
25 surgery and who is listed as the primary surgeon in the
26 operative record.

27 4. "Surgical assistant" means a person who provides aid
28 under the supervision of a surgeon in exposure, hemostasis,
29 closures, and other intraoperative technical functions and
30 assists the surgeon in performing a safe operation with optimal
31 results for the patient.

32 5. "Surgical technologist" means a person who assists and
33 practices under the supervision of a surgeon to ensure that the
34 operating room environment is safe, that proper equipment is
35 available, and that the operative procedure is conducted
36 efficiently. Surgical technologist duties include, but are not
37 limited to, maintaining sterility during a surgical procedure,
38 handling and ensuring the availability of necessary equipment
39 and supplies, and maintaining visibility of the operative site.

40 (b) *Employment limitations.*-

41 1. A facility may not employ or contract with any person to



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42 perform the duties of a surgical assistant unless the person is
43 a certified surgical assistant.

44 2. A facility may not employ or contract with any person to
45 perform the duties of a surgical technologist unless the person
46 is a certified surgical technologist.

47 3. Subparagraphs 1. and 2. do not apply to:

48 a. A person who was employed or contracted to perform the
49 duties of a surgical technologist or a surgical assistant at any
50 time between January 1, 2013, and July 1, 2013.

51 b. A health care practitioner as defined in chapter 456 or
52 a student if the duties he or she performs fall within the scope
53 of the practitioner's or the student's training and practice.

54 c. A person enrolled in a surgical technology or surgical
55 assisting training program accredited by the Commission on
56 Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, the
57 Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, or another
58 accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of
59 Education on July 1, 2013. A person may practice as a surgical
60 technologist or a surgical assistant for 1 year after completion
61 of such a training program before he or she is required to meet
62 the criteria in subparagraphs 1. or 2.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

64
65 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

66 And the title is amended as follows:

67 Delete everything before the enacting clause
68 and insert:

69 A bill to be entitled

70 An act relating to surgical assistants and surgical



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technologists; amending s. 395.0191, F.S.; providing definitions; providing requirements for health care facilities that employ or contract with surgical assistants and surgical technologists; providing exceptions to these requirements; providing an effective date.