

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to surgical technology and central
 3 service technician services; creating part XVII of ch.
 4 468, Florida Statutes, titled "Surgical Technology and
 5 Central Service Technician Services"; providing
 6 legislative intent; providing definitions; providing
 7 requirements for a person to perform surgical
 8 technology or central service technician services at a
 9 health care facility; providing credentialing and
 10 continuing education requirements for a central
 11 service technician; providing applicability; providing
 12 an effective date.

13
 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
 16 Section 1. Part XVII of chapter 468, Florida Statutes,
 17 consisting of sections 468.91, 468.93, 468.95, and 468.97,
 18 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

19
 20 PART XVII
 21 SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND CENTRAL SERVICE
 22 TECHNICIAN SERVICES

23
 24 468.91 Legislative intent.—The sole legislative purpose
 25 for enacting this part is to ensure that every new surgical

26 technologist or central service technician employed in the state
27 meets minimum requirements for safe practice as a member of the
28 surgical care team. It is the intent of the legislature that
29 surgical technologists or central service technicians who fall
30 below minimum competency or who otherwise present a danger to
31 the public health and safety be prohibited from practicing in
32 the state.

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

34 (1) "Central service technician" means a person who
35 decontaminates, inspects, assembles, packages, and sterilizes
36 reusable medical instruments or devices being used by a health
37 care facility.

38 (2) "Health care facility" means a hospital or an
39 ambulatory surgical center as those terms are defined in s.
40 395.002.

41 (3) "Health care practitioner" means a person licensed or
42 certified under chapter 457; chapter 458; chapter 459; chapter
43 460; chapter 461; chapter 462; chapter 463; chapter 464; chapter
44 465; chapter 466; chapter 467; part I, part II, part III, part
45 IV, part V, and part XIV of chapter 468; chapter 478, chapter
46 480, chapter 483, chapter 485, chapter 486, chapter 490, or
47 chapter 491.

48 (4) "Surgical technologist" means a person who provides
49 surgical technology services who is not a health care
50 practitioner.

51 (5) "Surgical technology" means surgical services,
 52 including, but not limited to, the following:

53 (a) Preparing the operating room and the sterile field for
 54 surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is
 55 functioning properly and safely and using sterile techniques to
 56 prepare supplies, instruments, and equipment.

57 (b) Intraoperative care and response to the needs of a
 58 health care practitioner by monitoring the sterile field and
 59 providing the required instruments or supplies.

60 (c) Performance of tasks at the sterile field in an
 61 operating room setting, including:

62 1. Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments.
 63 2. Sponging or suctioning an operative site.
 64 3. Preparing and cutting suture material.
 65 4. Transferring and irrigating with fluids.
 66 5. Transferring, but not administering, drugs within the
 67 sterile field.

68 6. Handling specimens.
 69 7. Holding retractors.
 70 8. Assisting in counting sponges, needles, supplies, and
 71 instruments.

72 468.95 Training and certification requirements for
 73 surgical technologists.—

74 (1) A health care facility shall only employ or otherwise
 75 retain the services of a person to perform surgical technology

76 if such person:

77 (a) Has successfully completed an accredited surgical
 78 technologists program and holds and maintains a certified
 79 surgical technologist credential administered by the National
 80 Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting or its
 81 successor;

82 (b) Has successfully completed an accredited surgical
 83 technologists program, but has not, as of the date of hire,
 84 obtained the certified surgical technologist certification
 85 required in paragraph (a), provided that such certification
 86 shall be obtained within 12 months after the graduation date;

87 (c) Was employed as a surgical technologist in a health
 88 care facility on or before December 31, 2022; or

89 (d) Has successfully completed a surgical technologist
 90 program in the United States Army, Navy, or Air Force or as a
 91 surgical technologist in the commissioned corps of the United
 92 States Public Health Service which has been deemed appropriate
 93 by the State Surgeon General.

94 (2) This section does not prohibit a health care
 95 practitioner from performing surgical technology services if he
 96 or she is acting within the scope of his or her license or
 97 certification.

98 468.97 Training and certification requirements for central
 99 service technicians.—

100 (1) A health care facility shall only employ or otherwise

101 retain the services of a person to perform as a central service
102 technician if such person has successfully passed a nationally
103 accredited exam for central service technicians and holds and
104 maintains one of the following credentials administered by a
105 nationally accredited central service technician credentialing
106 organization:

107 (a) A certified registered central service technician
108 credential;

109 (b) A certified sterile processing and distribution
110 technician credential; or

111 (c) Provides evidence that he or she was employed by or
112 provided services of a central service technician to a health
113 care facility on or before December 31, 2022.

114 (2) A central service technician who does not meet the
115 requirements of subsection (1) shall have 18 months from the
116 date of hire to obtain the certified registered central service
117 technician credential or the certified sterile processing and
118 distribution technician credential.

119 (3) A person who qualifies as a central service technician
120 in a health care facility under subsection (1) must annually
121 complete at least 10 hours of continuing education credits to
122 continue employment as a central service technician. The
123 continuing education required under this subsection shall be in
124 the area related to the functions of a central service
125 technician.

126 (4) A health care facility shall, upon the written request
 127 of a central service technician, verify, in writing, the central
 128 service technician's dates of employment or the contract period
 129 during which the central service technician provided services to
 130 the health care facility.

131 (5) This section does not prohibit the following persons
 132 from performing the tasks or functions of a central service
 133 technician:

134 (a) A health care practitioner if he or she is acting
 135 within the scope of his or her license or certification.

136 (b) A student or intern if he or she is performing the
 137 functions of a central service technician under the direct
 138 supervision of a health care practitioner as part of the
 139 student's or intern's training or internship.

140 (c) A person who holds or maintains a registration,
 141 certification, or license from a nationally accredited
 142 credentialing organization to perform health services.

143 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.