

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mr. Brewer

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to surgical technology.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Mr. Brewer	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin
Frederick E. Berry	Second Essex
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden

- 19 (i) preparing the operating room for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical
20 equipment is functioning properly and safely;
- 21 (ii) preparing the operating room and the sterile field for surgical procedures by
22 preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment using sterile technique;
- 23 (iii) anticipating the needs of the surgical team based on knowledge of human
24 anatomy and pathophysiology and how they relate to the surgical patient and
25 the patient's surgical procedure; and
- 26 (iv) as directed in an operating room setting, performing tasks at the sterile field,
27 including: (1) passing supplies, equipment, or instruments; (2) sponging or
28 suctioning an operative site; (3) preparing and cutting suture material; (4)
29 transferring and irrigating with fluids; (5) transferring but not administering
30 drugs within the sterile field; (6) handling specimens; (7) holding retractors; and
31 (8) assisting in counting sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments.

32 (b) A health care facility shall not employ or otherwise retain the services of any person to perform
33 surgical technology tasks or functions unless the person:

- 34 (1) has successfully completed an educational program for surgical technologists and holds
35 and maintains a certified surgical technologist credential administered by a nationally
36 recognized surgical technologist certifying body accredited by the National Commission
37 for Certifying Agencies and recognized by the American College of Surgeons and the
38 Association of Surgical Technologists;
- 39 (2) has graduated from an accredited school of surgical technology but has not, as of the
40 date of hire, obtained the certified surgical technologist certification required in
41 subsection (b)(1) above, provided that such certification is obtained within twelve
42 months of the graduation date;
- 43 (3) was employed to practice surgical technology in a health care facility on January 1,
44 2010;
- 45 (4) has completed an appropriate training program for surgical technology in the army,
46 navy, air force, marine corps, or coast guard of the United States or in the United States
47 Public Health Service;
- 48 (5) is a health care practitioner who performs surgical technology services within the scope
49 of the practitioner's license; or
- 50 (6) is in the service of the federal government, but only to the extent the person is
51 performing duties related to that service.

52 (c) A health care facility shall supervise each surgical technologist to monitor the technologist's
53 competent performance of delegated surgical technology services, in accordance with the facility's
54 policies and procedures, this section and any other applicable provisions of law.

55 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care practitioner from performing surgical
56 technology tasks or functions if the person is acting within the scope of his or her license.

57 (e) The department shall enforce the provisions of this section and shall adopt and promulgate such
58 rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes hereof.

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