



## Ohio Surgical Technologist Legislation Summary

131st Ohio General Assembly Regular Session  
House Bill No. 373

Sponsors: Representative LaTourette, Representative Huffman  
Co-sponsors: Representative Koehler, Representative Johnson, T., Representative Grossman, & Representative Rezabek

### History

- Introduced October 2015 from House Committee on Rule and Reference
- Second Reading in October 2015.
- Sent to House Committee on Commerce and Labor October 2015
- Sponsor Testimony in November 2015
- Proponent Testimony scheduled for December 8, 2015 at House Committee on Commerce and Labor
- Meeting of House Committee on Commerce and Labor on December 8, 2015 cancelled

### Surgical Technologist Licensure Legislation Summary

- Creates licensing requirements for surgical technologists and requires surgical technologists to be licensed by the State Medical Board;
- Prohibits unlicensed individuals from practicing as surgical technologists and from using the title surgical technologist;
- Specifies the tasks licensed surgical technologist may perform;
- Lists the requirements for obtaining initial and renewing surgical technologist licenses; and
- Authorizes the Medical Board to adopt rules to implement the legislation.

---

Current law does not regulate the practice of surgical technologists or require surgical technologists to be licensed. To practice as a surgical technologist, the bill requires a person to be licensed by the State Medical Board. A "surgical technologist" under the bill, is an individual who assists in a surgical procedure by engaging in any of the activities authorized by the bill (see "Scope of practice," below).<sup>1</sup>

### **Unlicensed practice prohibited**

Beginning two years after the bill's effective date, a person is prohibited from knowingly practicing as a surgical technologist without a valid license issued by the State Medical Board. The bill also prohibits a person from using the title "surgical technologist" or otherwise holding the person's self out as such without a license.<sup>2</sup>

The bill's prohibitions do not apply to certain licensed professionals such as a physician, physician assistant or registered nurse who is authorized in Ohio to practice their respective professions.<sup>4</sup>

### **Scope of practice**

A surgical technologist holding a valid license under the bill is authorized to engage in all of the following:

- Preparing the operating room, including the sterile field, for surgical procedures by doing one or both of the following:
  - Ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely;

---

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4785.01(C).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4785.02 and Section 3.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4785.99.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4785.02(B).

- Handling sterile supplies, equipment, and instruments using sterile techniques;
- Performing one or more of the following tasks within the sterile field:
  - Passing supplies, equipment, and instruments;
  - Sponging or suctioning of the patient's operative site or performing both activities;
  - Preparing and cutting suture material;
  - Transferring fluids and irrigating with fluids;
  - Transferring, but not administering, drugs;
  - Handling specimens;
  - Holding retractors;
  - Assisting a nurse performing circulatory duties in counting sponges, needles, and other supplies and instruments.
- Anticipating and fulfilling the surgical team's needs by applying human anatomy and pathophysiology knowledge.<sup>5</sup>

## Licensure

### Eligibility for licensure

To be eligible to receive a license to practice as a surgical technologist, the bill requires a person to demonstrate to the Medical Board that the person meets all of the following requirements:

- Is at least 18 and of good moral character;
- Has attained a high school degree or its equivalent;

---

<sup>5</sup>R.C. 4785.09

- Meets either of the following requirements:
  - **Holds certification as a surgical technologist**—The person meets both of the following requirements:
    - Holds current certification as a surgical technologist from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, its successor, or an equivalent organization recognized by the Medical Board; and
    - Has attained the certification by meeting the standard certification requirements established by National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, including graduating from an accredited educational program for surgical technology and passing the national certifying examination for surgical technologists offered by that Board.

"Accredited educational program for surgical technology" is defined as an educational program for surgical technology accredited by (1) the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, its successor, or an equivalent organization recognized by the Medical Board or (2) the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, its successor, or an equivalent organization.

- **Does not hold certification as a surgical technologist**— The person meets any of the following requirements:
  - The person practiced as a surgical technologist at a hospital or an ambulatory surgical facility during any part of the six months that preceded the bill's general effective date; or
  - The person successfully completed an educational program for surgical technology operated by a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces or the U.S. Public Health Service; or
  - The person is employed as a surgical technologist by the U.S. government and performs a surgical technologist's duties during that employment.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3701.01, not in the bill.

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 4785.03(B) and 4785.01(A) and (B).

## License application and issuance

A person seeking a license to practice as a surgical technologist must file with the Ohio Medical Board an application in a manner prescribed by the Board, pay an application fee of \$150, and submit to a criminal records check.

The Ohio Medical Board is required to review all complete applications within 60 days after receipt. A license is valid for two years and may be renewed.<sup>9</sup>

## License renewal and continuing education

A person seeking to renew a surgical technologist license must, on or before January 31 of each even-numbered year, apply for license renewal. The Ohio Medical Board sends renewal notices at least one month before the license expiration date.<sup>10</sup>

To be eligible for renewal, a surgical technologist certifies to the Ohio Medical Board that the surgical technologist has done both of the following:<sup>11</sup>

- Maintained the surgical technologist's status as a Certified Surgical Technologist, unless the technologist does not hold certification and satisfied the second set of eligibility requirements to receive a license (see "Does not hold certification as a surgical technologist," above);
- Completed at least 30 hours of continuing education in surgical technology approved by the Association of Surgical Technologists.

Renewal applications are submitted to the Medical Board with a *biennial* renewal fee of \$100.

---

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 4785.03(A) and 4785.04, with conforming changes in R.C. 109.572 and 4776.01.

<sup>9</sup> R.C. 4785.03(C) and 4785.05.

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 4785.06(A).

<sup>11</sup> R.C. 4785.06(B).