

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Buckley  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Morrisette

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do pass as Amended and Be Printed A-Engrossed

Vote: 18 – 0 – 6

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Cowan, Edwards, Garrard, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, G. Smith

Nays: Gilman, Richardson

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Courtney, Edwards, Johnson, Monroe, Shields, Verger, Winters

Nays: Girod, Kruse, Nelson, Whitsett

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 19, 2010

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Operative January 1, 2012, Senate Bill 1010 establishes practicing standards and registration requirements for surgical technologists, and direct individuals practicing as surgical technologists to obtain registration from the Oregon Health Authority. The bill prohibits employers from hiring or contracting with unregistered surgical technologist except in medically under-served communities under certain conditions. The bill contains a grandfathering clause allowing a person to be eligible for registration, without meeting all the registration criteria, if the person worked as a surgical technologist for two of the three years prior to the January 1, 2012 operative date. Operative January 1, 2013, the bill requires a surgical technologist to annually complete 15 hours of continuing education approved by a national organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority. The bill permits the Oregon Health Authority to impose a civil penalty for certain violations by health care facilities or individuals practicing as surgical technologists. The Oregon Health Authority is required to adopt rules as necessary to carry out the requirements of this measure. Applicants are required to pay an application fee of \$110 for registration which expires two years after the date of issuance.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The need to give community colleges time to offer classes required by this bill

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Modifies operative dates.

**BACKGROUND:** Surgical technologists, also called “scrubs,” “surgical technicians” or “operating room technicians,” assist in surgeries under the supervision of surgical personnel including surgeons or registered nurses. Before an operation, surgical technologists help prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes and sterile solutions. They assemble both sterile and non-sterile equipment and ensure that the equipment work properly. Technologists also prepare patients for surgery by washing, shaving and disinfecting incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating table and cover them with sterile surgical drapes. During surgery, technologists pass instruments and other sterile supplies to surgeons and surgical assistants. They may hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies and instruments. Surgical technologists help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis and assist in applying dressings. Some surgical technologists operate sterilizers, lights or suction machines, and assist with diagnostic equipment. Surgical technologists may help transfer patients to the recovery room following surgery and clean and restock the operating room. Technologists also observe patients' vital signs, check charts and assist the surgical team with putting on sterile gowns and gloves. Surgical technology is projected to grow faster than the average of all other occupations through the year 2012, as the volume of surgery will increase exponentially.