

HB 4089 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits an individual who is enrolled in or completed a registered apprenticeship program in surgical technology that is approved by the Oregon Health Authority in rule or accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies to practice in a health care facility. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

REVENUE: Revenue impact statement issued: no impact.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact statement issued: minimal impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Shortage of surgical technicians, particularly in rural Oregon
- Establishment of certification requirements in rulemaking for training apprenticeship programs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics states that surgical technologists assist by preparing operating rooms, setting up medical equipment and supplies, assisting physicians during surgery, and managing the sterile field.

Surgical technologists work as members of a health care team alongside physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, and other healthcare workers, often in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.

House Bill 2876 (2015) prohibits hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers from allowing an individual without specified qualifications and education to practice as a surgical technologist. The bill also directed the Oregon Health Authority to approve a national accreditation organization as a condition of employment for newly-practicing surgical technologists, and established exemptions for surgical technologists with recent experience and graduates of military training programs. Additionally, the bill provided an exception for health care facilities in rural or medically underserved areas of the state.

House Bill 4089 allows an individual enrolled in or has completed a specified apprenticeship program to practice as a surgical technologist in Oregon.