

HB 4106 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows person employed by health care facility to practice surgical technology if person is enrolled in or has completed a registered apprenticeship program or obtained a subspecialty surgical assistant or surgical technologist certification. Becomes operative January 1, 2023. Directs State Apprenticeship and Training Council in coordination with the Bureau of Labor and Industries to study registered apprenticeship training programs in surgical technology, including graduation and placement rates, and submit findings to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 1, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Minimal fiscal impact; no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statewide shortage of surgical technologists and related impacts to cost and delivery of care
- BOLI process for establishing new apprenticeship program
- Relative merits of apprenticeship path for surgical technologists

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires apprentice surgical technologist to be provided adequate direct supervision at all times while performing surgical technology.

BACKGROUND:

Surgical technologists are medical staff employed by health care facilities to prepare operating rooms and supplies for surgery and assist the surgical team during procedures. Oregon law prohibits a health care facility from allowing a person to practice surgical technology unless the person: has completed an accredited surgical technologist training program and is certified as a surgical technologist by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting; has completed a federal uniformed service surgical technologist training program and completes 16 hours of continuing education every two years; or, has practiced as a surgical technologist for at least two years before January 1, 2017 and completes 16 hours of continuing education at least every two years. Health care facilities may also employ individuals as surgical technologists for up to 12 months after completion of an accredited training program, and health care facilities in rural or underserved communities may employ individuals as surgical technologists who are attending an accredited training program.

House Bill 4106 with the -1 amendments creates an apprenticeship path for surgical technologists. The measure allows individuals enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program to perform surgical technologist duties under direct supervision and health care facilities to employ individuals as surgical technologists who have completed a registered apprenticeship training program which includes certification by the National Center for Competency Training.