

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/3/15 H3/6/15 H3/16/15*
2 90th General Assembly **A Bill**
3 Regular Session, 2015

HOUSE BILL 1142

4
5 By: Representative C. Douglas
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS
9 ACT; TO ESTABLISH THE *REGISTRATION* OF SURGICAL
10 TECHNOLOGISTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SURGICAL
15 TECHNOLOGISTS ACT.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.*

21 *(a) The General Assembly finds that:*

22 *(1) A surgical technologist is an individual who:*

23 *(A) Prepares the operating room, the sterile field, and*
24 *the sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment for surgical procedures; and*

25 *(B) Performs various tasks in the sterile field which*
26 *include handling specimens, providing irrigation solutions to the supervising*
27 *physician, and irrigating the operative site;*

28 *(2) The practice of surgical technology is a separate and*
29 *distinct healthcare profession that does not include the practice of surgical*
30 *assisting as performed by physician assistants, surgical assistants, or first*
31 *assistants;*

32 *(3) Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow*
33 *between 2006 and 2016 as the volume of surgeries increases with the aging*
34 *population of the United States;*

35 *(4) Eight (8) surgical technology programs in Arkansas have*
36 *received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health*



1 Education Programs, with an average of one hundred twenty (120) individuals
2 graduating from these programs per year;

3 (5) The State of Arkansas does not have a registration,
4 certification, or licensure procedure for surgical technologists; and

5 (6) It is the duty of the General Assembly to pursue efforts to
6 improve healthy medical outcomes by ensuring professional competency and
7 professional discipline over a growing healthcare profession.

8 (b) The intent of this act is to regulate individuals who practice
9 surgical technology.

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11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 95, is amended to add an
12 additional subchapter to read as follows:

13 Subchapter 9 – Surgical Technologists

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15 17-95-901. Title.

16 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
17 Surgical Technologists Act".

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19 17-95-902. Definitions.

20 As used in this subchapter:

21 (1) "Surgical technologist" means an individual who performs the
22 skills and techniques of surgical technology under the direction and
23 supervision of a supervising practitioner other than in the course of
24 practicing as a licensed healthcare professional; and

25 (2) "Surgical technology" means surgical patient care that
26 includes without limitation:

27 (A) Preparing an operating room and a sterile field for
28 surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is assembled and
29 functioning properly and safely;

30 (B) Preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment
31 using sterile technique; and

32 (C) Performing tasks in a sterile field, including:

33 (i) Maintaining asepsis and a sterile operating
34 field;

35 (ii) Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments
36 according to the needs of the surgical team;

1 (iii) Sponging or suctioning an operative site;
2 (iv) Preparing and cutting suture material;
3 (v) Providing irrigation solutions to the
4 supervising physician and irrigating an operative site;
5 (vi) Providing drugs within the sterile field for
6 administration by the supervising physician;
7 (vii) Handling specimens;
8 (viii) Holding retractors and other instruments;
9 (ix) Applying electrocautery to clamps on blood
10 vessels;
11 (x) Connecting drains to a suction apparatus;
12 (xi) Applying dressings to closed wounds; and
13 (xii) Performing counts of supplies such as sponges,
14 needles, and instruments with the registered nurse circulator.

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16 17-95-903. Registration.

17 The Arkansas State Medical Board shall register as a surgical
18 technologist an applicant who:

19 (1) Holds a current credential as a certified surgical
20 technologist from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical
21 Assisting or its successor or a national organization approved by the
22 Arkansas State Medical Board;

23 (2) Has successfully completed a surgical technologist training
24 program during the person's service as a member of any branch of the United
25 States Armed Forces; or

26 (3) Has been employed to practice as a surgical technologist at
27 any time in the six (6) months before July 1, 2015, if the applicant
28 registers on or before July 1, 2016.

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30 17-95-904. Title protection.

31 A person shall not use or assume the title "registered surgical
32 technologist" unless the person is registered with the Arkansas State Medical
33 Board.

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35 17-95-905. Rules.

36 The Arkansas State Medical Board may adopt and promulgate rules to

1 implement this subchapter.

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/s/C. Douglas

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