
HOUSE BILL 2414

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Hinkle, Kelley, Warnick, Green, Schmick, and Harris

Read first time 01/13/12. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to the certification of surgical technologists;
2 amending RCW 18.215.005, 18.215.010, 18.215.020, 18.215.030,
3 18.215.040, 18.215.060, 18.215.070, and 18.215.080; creating a new
4 section; repealing RCW 18.215.050; and providing an effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.215.005 and 1999 c 335 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 ~~((The registration of surgical technologists is in the interest of~~
9 ~~the public health, safety, and welfare.)) The legislature finds that it
10 is necessary to regulate the practice of surgical technologists in
11 order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It is the
12 intent of the legislature that only individuals who meet and maintain
13 minimum standards of competence and conduct be allowed to engage in the
14 practice of surgical technology.~~

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.215.010 and 1999 c 335 s 2 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
18 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

1 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

2 (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's
3 designee.

4 (3) "Surgical technologist" means (~~a person, regardless of title,~~
5 ~~who is supervised in the surgical setting under the delegation of~~
6 ~~authority of a health care practitioner acting within the scope of his~~
7 ~~or her license and under the laws of this state)) an individual who,
8 under the supervision of a licensed health practitioner, is authorized
9 to: (a) Maintain surgical instrument integrity from within the
10 surgical field during surgical procedures; (b) perform surgical support
11 tasks, including instrument and equipment transfers and counts, and
12 managing fluids, specimens, and supplies; (c) identify and correct
13 asepsis; and (d) perform other surgical tasks as directed.~~

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.215.020 and 1999 c 335 s 3 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 (~~No person may represent oneself as a surgical technologist by use~~
17 ~~of any title or description without being registered by the department~~
18 ~~under the provisions of this chapter.)) No individual may hold himself
19 or herself out to be a surgical technologist, nor may any individual
20 perform the functions of a surgical technologist, unless the secretary
21 or the secretary's designee certifies such individual as a surgical
22 technologist under the provisions of this chapter. Unless exempted by
23 RCW 18.215.030, applicants for certification as a surgical technologist
24 must submit evidence of holding a current credential as a certified
25 surgical technologist from the national board of surgical technology
26 and surgical assisting or its successor.~~

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.215.030 and 1999 c 335 s 4 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (~~Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit or restrict:~~

30 (1) ~~The practice of an individual licensed, certified, or~~
31 ~~registered under the laws of this state and performing services within~~
32 ~~his or her authorized scope of practice;~~

33 (2) ~~The practice by an individual employed by the government of the~~
34 ~~United States while engaged in the performance of duties prescribed by~~
35 ~~the laws of the United States;~~

1 ~~(3) The practice by a person who is a regular student in an~~
2 ~~educational program approved by the secretary, and whose performance of~~
3 ~~services is pursuant to a regular course of instruction or assignments~~
4 ~~from an instructor and under the general supervision of the~~
5 ~~instructor.))~~

6 (1) In lieu of the credentialing requirements in RCW 18.215.020,
7 applicants for certification as a surgical technologist may:

8 (a) Demonstrate successful completion of a surgical technology
9 training program during the individual's service as a member of any
10 branch of the armed forces of the United States; or

11 (b) Provide evidence that the individual was practicing surgical
12 technology in a health care facility at any time during the six months
13 immediately preceding the effective date of this section.

14 (2) An individual who successfully completes a surgical technology
15 training program within twelve months following the effective date of
16 this section may engage in the functions of a surgical technologist
17 during the twelve-month period immediately following completion of the
18 program. Thereafter, unless exempted by subsection (1) of this
19 section, such individual may not continue to function in the role of a
20 surgical technologist without meeting the credentialing requirements of
21 RCW 18.215.020.

22 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, nothing
23 in this section prohibits a student from performing the functions of a
24 surgical technologist if the student is under the direct supervision of
25 an appropriately licensed health care practitioner and is functioning
26 within the scope of the student's training.

27 (4) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit a licensed
28 practitioner from engaging in the full scope of practice for which he
29 or she is licensed.

30 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.215.040 and 1999 c 335 s 5 are each amended to read
31 as follows:

32 In addition to any other authority provided by law, the secretary
33 has the authority to:

34 (1) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as required to implement
35 this chapter;

36 (2) Establish all (~~registration~~) certification and renewal fees
37 in accordance with RCW 43.70.250;

1 (3) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this
2 chapter;

3 (4) (~~Register~~) Certify an applicant or deny (~~registration~~)
4 certification based upon unprofessional conduct or impairment governed
5 by the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW;

6 (5) Hire clerical, administrative, investigative, and other staff
7 as needed to implement this chapter; and

8 (6) Maintain the official department record of all applicants and
9 persons with (~~registrations~~) certification.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.215.060 and 1999 c 335 s 7 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 The secretary shall (~~register~~) certify an applicant on forms
13 provided by the secretary. Each applicant shall pay a fee determined
14 by the secretary under RCW 43.70.250. The fee shall accompany the
15 application.

16 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.215.070 and 1999 c 335 s 8 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 The secretary shall establish by rule the procedural requirements
19 and fees for renewal of (~~registration~~) certification. Failure to
20 renew shall invalidate the (~~registration~~) certification and all
21 privileges granted by the (~~registration~~) certification.

22 **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.215.080 and 1999 c 335 s 9 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs
25 unregistered practice, the issuance and denial of (~~registration~~)
26 certification, and the discipline of persons (~~registered~~) certified
27 under this chapter. The secretary shall be the disciplining authority
28 under this chapter.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The department of health shall recommend
30 adoption, amendment, and repeal of such rules as may be deemed
31 necessary to administer and enforce this act so long as the rules are
32 in accordance with, and not inconsistent with, the provisions of this
33 act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** RCW 18.215.050 (Required applicant
2 information) and 1999 c 335 s 6 are each repealed.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** This act takes effect August 1, 2013.

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