

SENATE No. 797

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to surgical technology..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 218 the following new section—

3 Section 219. Surgical Technologists.

4 For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

5 “Health care facility” means any organization, partnership, association, corporation or
6 trust, however named, or the commonwealth or any subdivision thereof, or any person or group
7 of persons that provides surgical health care services, whether inpatient or outpatient and
8 whether overnight or ambulatory, including but not limited to any hospital, clinic, or private
9 office of a health care practitioner or practitioners, whether conducted for charity or for profit
10 and whether or not subject to the provisions of section 25C of chapter 111 of the general laws.

11 “Health care practitioner” means any person licensed under the provisions of chapter 112
12 of the general laws, including any intern, resident, fellow, or medical officer, who may supervise,
13 conduct, or assist with the performance of surgery.

“Surgical technologist” means any person not a health care practitioner who provides surgical technology services.

“Surgical technology” means surgical patient care that may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following activities:

preparing the operating room for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely;

preparing the operating room and the sterile field for surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment using sterile technique;

anticipating the needs of the surgical team based on knowledge of human anatomy and pathophysiology and how they relate to the surgical patient and the patient’s surgical procedure; and

as directed in an operating room setting, performing tasks at the sterile field, including: (1) passing supplies, equipment, or instruments; (2) sponging or suctioning an operative site; (3) preparing and cutting suture material; (4) transferring and irrigating with fluids; (5) transferring but not administering drugs within the sterile field; (6) handling specimens; (7) holding retractors; and (8) assisting in counting sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments.

A health care facility shall not employ or otherwise retain the services of any person to perform surgical technology tasks or functions unless the person:

has successfully completed an educational program for surgical technologists and holds and maintains a certified surgical technologist credential administered by a nationally recognized surgical technologist certifying body accredited by the National Commission for Certifying

Agencies and recognized by the American College of Surgeons and the Association of Surgical Technologists;

has graduated from an accredited school of surgical technology but has not, as of the date of hire, obtained the certified surgical technologist certification required in subsection (b)(1) above, provided that such certification is obtained within twelve months of the graduation date;

was employed to practice surgical technology in a health care facility on January 1, 2010;

has completed an appropriate training program for surgical technology in the army, navy, air force, marine corps, or coast guard of the United States or in the United States Public Health Service;

is a health care practitioner who performs surgical technology services within the scope of the practitioner's license; or

is in the service of the federal government, but only to the extent the person is performing duties related to that service.

A health care facility shall supervise each surgical technologist to monitor the technologist's competent performance of delegated surgical technology services, in accordance with the facility's policies and procedures, this section and any other applicable provisions of law.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care practitioner from performing surgical technology tasks or functions if the person is acting within the scope of his or her license.

The department shall enforce the provisions of this section and shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes hereof.