



HOUSE BILL 468: Establish Surgical Technology Standards.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 20, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. White, Lambeth, Sasser	Prepared by:	Theresa Matula
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Staff

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 43 would prevent hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities from employing surgical technologists who do not have at least one of the following: evidence of successful completion of an accredited educational program for surgical technology, military training in the field of surgical technology, or prior work experience as a surgical technologist. Exceptions would be permitted in the event a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility was not able to find a qualified surgical technologist after a diligent search. Surgical technologists would also be required to complete thirty hours of continuing education every two years, and the employing hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities would have to verify completion of those hours. The bill also creates a definition for "surgical technology" and "surgical technologist."*

CURRENT LAW: Currently, there is no law requiring individuals employed as surgical technologists to be credentialed or complete continuing education.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 applies to hospitals and would:

- Create definitions for "surgical technologists" and "surgical technology."
- Prevent hospitals from employing a surgical technologist unless the individual meets one of the following criteria:
 - Completion of an accredited educational program for surgical technology and holds and maintains an accredited surgical technologist certification.
 - Completion an appropriate training program through the United States Military or the United States Public Health Service.
 - Documentation of employment as a surgical technologist on December 31, 2021, or during the three years immediately preceding December 31, 2021.
- Allow probationary employment for one year of individuals who had completed the requisite training and were working on obtaining the necessary credential.
- Require surgical technologists to complete either (1) thirty hours of continuing education every two years, or (2) continuing education sufficient to maintain a surgical technologist credential.
- Allow hospitals to employ surgical technologists who did not meet any of the training and credentialing criteria, provided that the hospitals conducted a diligent search for individuals who

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met the criteria, maintained records of their search, and required non-credentialed individuals to meet all continuing education requirements.

- Allow DHHS to take adverse action against hospitals that fail to comply.

Section 2 is identical to Section 1, except that it applies to ambulatory surgical facilities instead of hospitals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would become effective January 1, 2022.

** Jason Moran-Bates, staff attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*