

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-127

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

HOUSE BILL 1142

5  
6 By: Representative C. Douglas

7 Filed with: Arkansas Legislative Council  
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

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

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14  
15 **Subtitle**

16 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SURGICAL  
17 TECHNOLOGISTS ACT.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (4) Eight (8) surgical technology programs in Arkansas have  
2 received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health  
3 Education Programs, with an average of one hundred twenty (120) individuals  
4 graduating from these programs per year;

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

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

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

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

15                   Subchapter 9 – Surgical Technologists

16  
17           17-95-901. Title.

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

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21           17-95-902. Definitions.

22           As used in this subchapter:

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

27           (2) "Surgical technology" means surgical patient care that  
28 includes without limitation:

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

32                   (B) Preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment  
33 using sterile technique; and

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

35                           (i) Maintaining asepsis and a sterile operating  
36 field;

- 1                    (ii) Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments  
2 according to the needs of the surgical team;  
3                    (iii) Sponging or suctioning an operative site;  
4                    (iv) Preparing and cutting suture material;  
5                    (v) Providing irrigation solutions to the  
6 supervising physician and irrigating an operative site;  
7                    (vi) Providing drugs within the sterile field for  
8 administration by the supervising physician;  
9                    (vii) Handling specimens;  
10                   (viii) Holding retractors and other instruments;  
11                   (ix) Applying electrocautery to clamps on blood  
12 vessels;  
13                   (x) Connecting drains to a suction apparatus;  
14                   (xi) Applying dressings to closed wounds; and  
15                   (xii) Performing counts of supplies such as sponges,  
16 needles, and instruments with the registered nurse circulator.  
17

18                   17-95-903. Registration.

19                   The Arkansas State Medical Board shall register as a surgical  
20 technologist an applicant who:

- 21                   (1) Holds a current credential as a certified surgical  
22 technologist from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical  
23 Assisting or its successor or a national organization approved by the  
24 Arkansas State Medical Board;  
25                   (2) Has successfully completed a surgical technologist training  
26 program during the person's service as a member of any branch of the United  
27 States Armed Forces; or  
28                   (3) Has been employed to practice as a surgical technologist at  
29 any time in the six (6) months before July 1, 2015, if the applicant  
30 registers on or before July 1, 2016.  
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32                   17-95-904. Title protection.

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