

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-203

2
3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE,
4 AND LABOR STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND IMPACT OF REQUIRING
5 CERTIFICATION OR LICENSURE OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS AND SURGICAL
6 ASSISTANTS.

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8 WHEREAS, a surgical technologist is an individual who prepares the
9 operating room, the sterile field, and the sterile supplies, instruments, and
10 equipment for surgical procedures and who performs various tasks in the
11 sterile field which include handling specimens, providing irrigation
12 solutions to the supervising physician, and irrigating the operative site;
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, a surgical assistant is an individual who provides aid in
16 exposure, homeostasis, closure, and other intraoperative technical functions
17 that assist a supervising physician in performing a safe operation with
18 optimal results for the patient; and

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20 WHEREAS, employment of surgical technologists and surgical assistants
21 is expected to grow between 2006 and 2016 as the volume of surgeries
22 increases with the aging population of the United States; and

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24 WHEREAS, Arkansas health facilities employ approximately one thousand
25 (1,000) surgical technologists and surgical assistants; and

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27 WHEREAS, eight (8) surgical technology programs in Arkansas have
28 received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health
29 Education Programs, with an average of one hundred and twenty (120)
30 individuals graduating from these programs per year; and

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32 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas does not have a registration,
33 certification, or licensure procedure for surgical technologists or surgical
34 assistants; and

1 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should pursue effects to improve healthy
2 medical outcomes by ensuring professional competency and professional
3 discipline over a growing profession,
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5 NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF
7 THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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9 THAT the House Committee On Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the
10 feasibility and impact of requiring certification or licensure of surgical
11 technologists and surgical assistants.
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13 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Arkansas State Medical
14 Board and other interested parties provide assistance to the House Committee
15 on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to perform the study.
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17 Respectfully submitted,
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21 Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas
22 District 75
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25 By: JMB/JMB
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