

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S2/2/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 167

4
5 By: Senator D. Sanders
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

12
13 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SURGICAL
14 TECHNOLOGISTS ACT; AND TO ESTABLISH THE
15 REGISTRATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 95, is amended to add an
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 10 – Surgical Technologists

17-95-1001. Title.

26 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
27 Surgical Technologists Act".
28

17-95-1002. Definitions.

30 As used in this subchapter:

31 (1) "Surgical technologist" means an individual who performs the
32 skills and techniques of surgical technology under the direction and
33 supervision of a licensed practitioner other than in the course of practicing
34 as a licensed healthcare professional; and

35 (2) "Surgical technology" means surgical patient care that
36 includes without limitation:



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

4 (B) Preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment
5 using sterile technique;

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

7 (i) Maintaining asepsis and a sterile operating
8 field;

9 (ii) Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments
10 according to the needs of the surgical team;

11 (iii) Sponging or suctioning an operative site;

12 (iv) Preparing and cutting suture material;

13 (v) Providing irrigation solutions to the
14 supervising physician and irrigating an operative site;

15 (vi) Providing drugs within the sterile field for
16 administration by the supervising physician;

17 (vii) Handling specimens;

18 (viii) Holding retractors and other instruments;

19 (ix) Applying electrocautery to clamps on blood
20 vessels;

21 (x) Connecting drains to a suction apparatus;

22 (xi) Applying dressings to closed wounds; and

23 (xii) Performing counts of supplies such as sponges,
24 needles, and instruments with the registered nurse circulator; and

25 (D) The practice of surgical technology is a separate and
26 distinct healthcare profession that does not include the practice of surgical
27 assisting as performed by physician assistants, surgical assistants, or first
28 assistants.

29
30 17-95-1003. Registration.

31 The Arkansas State Medical Board shall register as a surgical
32 technologist an applicant who:

33 (1) Has successfully completed a nationally accredited surgical
34 technology program and holds a current credential as a certified surgical
35 technologist from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical
36 Assisting or its successor or a national organization approved by the

1 Arkansas State Medical Board;

2 (2) Has successfully completed a surgical technologist training
3 program during the person's service as a member of any branch of the United
4 States Armed Forces; or

5 (3) Has been employed to practice as a surgical technologist at
6 any time within the six (6) months before July 1, 2017, if the applicant
7 registers with the Arkansas State Medical Board on or before July 1, 2018.

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9 17-95-1004. Title protection.

10 A person shall not use or assume the title "registered surgical
11 technologist" unless the person is registered with the Arkansas State Medical
12 Board.

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14 17-95-1005. Rules.

15 The Arkansas State Medical Board may adopt and promulgate rules to
16 implement this subchapter.

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18 */s/D. Sanders*

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21 **APPROVED: 03/06/2017**