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HOUSE BILL 1596

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Riccelli, Johnson, Cody, Harris, Stanford, and Rodne

Read first time 01/23/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to surgical technologists; amending RCW  
2 18.215.005; adding new sections to chapter 18.215 RCW; and providing  
3 an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.215.005 and 1999 c 335 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 The registration and professional education of surgical  
8 technologists is in the interest of the public health, safety, and  
9 welfare.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.215  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 In order to perform functions in a hospital licensed under  
13 chapter 70.41 RCW or an ambulatory surgical facility defined by RCW  
14 70.230.010, a registered surgical technologist must first submit  
15 evidence of any one of the following to the department in a manner  
16 acceptable to the secretary:

17 (1) Successful completion of a nationally and programmatically  
18 accredited surgical technology program;

19 (2) Successful completion of a surgical technology program  
20 offered by the United States armed forces; or

1 (3) Performance of surgical technology functions in a hospital or  
2 an ambulatory surgical facility for a period of one year in the five  
3 years immediately preceding January 1, 2016. A person who has  
4 performed surgical technology functions in a hospital or an  
5 ambulatory surgical facility for a period of one year in the five  
6 years immediately preceding January 1, 2016, may perform surgical  
7 technology functions at any hospital or ambulatory surgical facility  
8 after January 1, 2016.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.215  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 This chapter does not prohibit or affect:

12 (1) The practice of an individual licensed, certified, or  
13 registered under the laws of this state and performing services  
14 within his or her authorized scope of practice;

15 (2) A person performing functions in the discharge of official  
16 duties on behalf of the United States government, including the armed  
17 forces, coast guard, public health services, veterans' bureau, or  
18 bureau of Indian affairs; or

19 (3) A person completing the clinical portion of a surgical  
20 technology education program.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.215  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 A person who does not meet the requirements of this chapter may  
24 practice surgical technology in a health care facility if:

25 (1) After a reasonable effort has been made, the health care  
26 facility is unable to employ a sufficient number of persons who meet  
27 the requirements of this chapter; and

28 (2) The health care facility makes a written record of its  
29 efforts made pursuant to subsection (1) of this section and retains  
30 the record at the health care facility.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 18.215  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 The department of health may adopt rules necessary to implement  
34 this act.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Sections 1 through 4 of this act take  
2 effect January 1, 2016.

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