



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 410

SENATE BILL NO. 789

By Dickerson

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1370

By Sargent

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63 and Title 68, relative to surgical assistants.

WHEREAS, surgical assisting is an established health profession in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, surgical assistants aid in ensuring a safe surgical environment by maximizing patient safety by using appropriate techniques for processes, including, but not limited to, maintaining hemostasis, proper patient positioning, clear visualization of the operative site, proper closure of the operative site, and correct dressing of a wound; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to encourage the most effective utilization of the skills of surgical assistants by enabling them to perform tasks delegated by a licensed physician; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 6, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) No person shall use or assume the title "registered surgical assistant" unless such person is registered with the board as a registered surgical assistant.

(b) The board shall register as a registered surgical assistant any applicant who presents satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

(1) Holds and maintains a current credential as a surgical assistant or surgical first assistant issued by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, the National Surgical Assistant Association, or the National Commission for Certification of Surgical Assistants or their successors;

(2) Has successfully completed a surgical assistant training program during the applicant's service as a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States; or

(3) Has practiced as a surgical assistant at any time in the six (6) months prior to July 1, 2017, provided the applicant registers with the board by December 31, 2019.

(c) The board shall have the authority to deny, restrict, condition, revoke, or otherwise discipline the registration of a surgical assistant for violation of this section, violation of any rules promulgated pursuant to this section, or any basis provided in § 63-6-214.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: May 8, 2017


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 18th day of May 2017


BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR