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H.126

Introduced by Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, Copeland-Hanzas of
Bradford, Dakin of Colchester, Dunn of Essex, Fagan of
Rutland City, Head of South Burlington, Helm of Fair Haven,
Hooper of Montpelier, Howard of Rutland City, Juskiewicz of
Cambridge, and Lanpher of Vergennes

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; hospital licensure; circulating nurse

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that a
circulating nurse be present in hospital operating rooms during an invasive or
surgical procedure.

An act relating to circulating nurses in hospital operating rooms

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1905 is amended to read:

§ 1905. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Upon receipt of an application for license and the license fee, the licensing
agency shall issue a license when it determines that the applicant and hospital
facilities meet the following minimum standards:

* * *

1 (23) A registered nurse who is licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28
2 and educated and trained in perioperative nursing shall be present and serve as
3 a circulating nurse for the duration of any invasive or surgical procedure
4 conducted at a hospital. As used in this subdivision, “circulating nurse” means
5 a licensed registered nurse who is responsible for coordinating nursing care,
6 responding to the safety needs of a patient in the operating room, and
7 supporting the surgical team as appropriate during a procedure. A circulating
8 nurse may leave the operating room for a short period of time during a
9 procedure to perform an activity related to the procedure or, in accordance with
10 hospital-specific protocols, may be relieved by another circulating nurse.

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.