

1 S.31

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

4 Date: January 17, 2017

5 Subject: Health; hospital licensure; circulating nurse

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

9 An act relating to circulating nurses in hospital operating rooms

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

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

12 § 1905. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

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

16 * * *

17 (23) A registered nurse who is licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28
18 and educated and trained in perioperative nursing shall be present and serve as
19 a circulating nurse for the duration of any invasive or surgical procedure

1 ~~conducted at a hospital. As used in this subdivision, "circulating nurse" means~~
2 a licensed registered nurse who is responsible for coordinating nursing care,
3 responding to the safety needs of a patient in the operating room, and
4 supporting the surgical team as appropriate during a procedure. A circulating
5 nurse may leave the operating room for a short period of time during a
6 procedure to perform an activity related to the procedure or, in accordance
7 with hospital-specific protocols, may be relieved by another circulating nurse.

8 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.~~

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 222 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 222. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Subchapter 1. Health Care Workforce

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§ 9492. PERIOPERATIVE NURSES

A registered nurse who is licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28 and educated and trained in perioperative nursing shall be present and serve as a circulating nurse for the duration of any invasive or surgical procedure that is conducted in a hospital operating room or ambulatory surgical center operating room. As used in this section, "circulating nurse" means a licensed registered nurse who is responsible for coordinating nursing care, responding to the safety needs of a patient in the operating room, and supporting the surgical team as appropriate during a procedure. A circulating nurse may leave the operating room for a short period of time during a procedure to perform an activity related to the procedure or, in accordance with specific hospital or ambulatory surgical center protocols, may be relieved by another circulating nurse.

Subchapter 2. Walk-In Centers

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Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9492 is redesignated to read:

*~~§ 9492~~ § 9495. NON-EMERGENCY WALK-IN CENTERS;
NONDISCRIMINATION*

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.