

S.31

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. 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.