

1 S.31

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

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  
20 conducted at a hospital. As used in this subdivision, "circulating nurse" means

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

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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