

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill  
3 No. 31 entitled “An act relating to circulating nurses in hospital operating  
4 rooms” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends  
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and  
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

8 CHAPTER 222. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

9 Subchapter 1. Health Care Workforce

10 \* \* \*

11 § 9492. PERIOPERATIVE NURSES

12 A registered nurse who is licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28 and  
13 educated and trained in perioperative nursing shall be present and serve as a  
14 circulating nurse for the duration of any invasive or surgical procedure that is  
15 more complex than those routinely performed in a physician’s office and is  
16 conducted in a hospital or ambulatory surgical center operating room. As used  
17 in this section, “circulating nurse” means a licensed registered nurse who is  
18 responsible for coordinating nursing care, responding to the safety needs of a  
19 patient in the operating room, and supporting the surgical team as appropriate  
20 during a procedure. A circulating nurse may leave the operating room for a  
21 short period of time during a procedure to perform an activity related to the

1 procedure or, in accordance with specific hospital or ambulatory surgical  
2 center protocols, may be relieved by another circulating nurse.

3 Subchapter 2. Walk-In Centers

4 \* \* \*

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

6 ~~§ 9492~~ § 9495. NON-EMERGENCY WALK-IN CENTERS;

7 NONDISCRIMINATION

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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