

House File 77 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 77
BY JONES

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to practice requirements for surgical
- 2 technologists.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **148K.1 Definitions.**

2 1. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
3 requires:

4 a. "Health care facility" means all of the following:

5 (1) A facility as defined in section 514J.102.

6 (2) A facility licensed pursuant to chapter 135B or 135C.

7 b. "Surgical technology" means surgical patient care that
8 includes but is not limited to all of the following:

9 (1) Preparation of an operating room for a surgical procedure
10 by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and
11 safely.

12 (2) Preparation of an operating room and the sterile
13 field for a surgical procedure by preparing sterile supplies,
14 instruments, and equipment using sterile techniques.

15 (3) Anticipation of a surgical team's needs based on
16 knowledge of human anatomy and pathophysiology and the
17 relationship to a surgical patient and the surgical procedure
18 being performed.

19 (4) As directed in an operating room setting, performance of
20 tasks including all of the following:

21 (a) Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments.

22 (b) Sponging or suctioning an operative site.

23 (c) Preparing and cutting suture material.

24 (d) Transferring fluids or drugs.

25 (e) Holding retractors and other instruments.

26 (f) Handling specimens.

27 (g) Applying electrocautery to clamps on bleeders.

28 (h) Connecting drains to suction apparatuses.

29 (i) Applying dressings to closed wounds.

30 (j) Assisting in sponge, needle, supply, and instrument
31 counts.

32 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **148K.2 Surgical technology — practice**
33 **requirements**

34 1. A person shall not practice surgical technology in a
35 health care facility, and a health care facility shall not employ

1 or contract with a person to engage in surgical technology,
2 unless at least one of the following requirements has been
3 satisfied:

4 a. The person has successfully completed a nationally or
5 regionally accredited surgical technology program.

6 b. The person holds and maintains a certification issued by
7 the national board of surgical technology and surgical assisting
8 or another nationally recognized credentialing organization.

9 c. The person has completed a surgical technology training
10 program in the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,
11 coast guard, or public health service.

12 d. The person provides evidence that the person has been
13 employed to practice surgical technology in a health care
14 facility in this state prior to July 1, 2025.

15 e. The person is in the service of the federal government and
16 surgical technology duties are required as part of their service.

17 2. a. Beginning July 1, 2026, a person qualified to practice
18 surgical technology under subsection 1 shall annually complete
19 fifteen hours of continuing education to remain qualified to
20 practice surgical technology.

21 b. The department of inspections, appeals, and licensing
22 shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to establish procedures
23 and standards for surgical technology continuing education.

24 3. A health care facility that employs a person to practice
25 surgical technology shall verify the person's compliance with
26 subsection 1 and the continuing education requirements under
27 subsection 2.

28 **Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 148K.3 Practice of surgical technology**
29 **— other licensed professionals.**

30 This chapter shall not be construed to prohibit a person
31 licensed under chapter 148, 152, 153, or 154 from practicing
32 surgical technology if that person is acting within the scope of
33 the person's license.

34

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill relates to practice requirements for surgical
3 technologists.

4 The bill defines "health care facility" (facility) and
5 "surgical technology" (technology).

6 The bill prohibits any person from practicing technology in a
7 facility, and prohibits facilities from employing or contracting
8 with a person to engage in technology, unless that person has
9 successfully completed a nationally or regionally accredited
10 technology program; holds and maintains a certification issued by
11 the national board of surgical technology and surgical assisting
12 or another nationally recognized credentialing organization; has
13 completed a technology training program in the United States
14 army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, or public
15 health service; provides evidence that they have been employed to
16 practice technology in a health care facility in this state prior
17 to July 1, 2025; or is in the service of the federal government
18 and technology duties are required as part of their service.

19 Beginning July 1, 2026, the bill requires a person qualified
20 to practice technology to annually complete 15 hours of
21 continuing education (CE). The bill directs the department of
22 inspections, appeals, and licensing to adopt rules relating to
23 technology CE.

24 The bill requires facilities that employ a person to practice
25 technology to verify the person's compliance with technology
26 practice and CE requirements.

27 The bill is not to be construed to prohibit people licensed
28 under Code chapter 148 (medicine and surgery and osteopathic
29 medicine and surgery), 152 (nursing), 153 (dentistry), or 154
30 (optometry) from practicing technology if the person is acting
31 within the scope of the person's license.