



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5288

LCO No. 1274

01274_____PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING CIRCULATING NURSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Circulating nurse" means a registered nurse licensed under
4 chapter 378 of the general statutes, who is educated, trained or
5 experienced in perioperative nursing and who is responsible for
6 coordinating the nursing care and safety needs of a patient in an
7 operating room;

8 (2) "Outpatient surgical facility" has the same meaning as provided
9 in subsection (a) of section 19a-493b of the general statutes; and

10 (3) "Perioperative nursing" means nursing services that are
11 provided to patients during the preoperative, intraoperative and
12 immediate postoperative periods of a surgical procedure.

13 (b) Any hospital or outpatient surgical facility shall ensure that a
14 circulating nurse is assigned to, and present for the duration of, each

15 surgical procedure performed in an operating room of such hospital or
16 outpatient surgical facility. While assigned to a surgical procedure, no
17 hospital or outpatient surgical facility shall assign a circulating nurse
18 to another procedure that is scheduled to occur concurrently or that
19 may overlap in time with the originally assigned surgical procedure. A
20 circulating nurse assigned to a surgical procedure shall be present for
21 the duration of the procedure unless it becomes necessary for the nurse
22 to leave the operating room as part of the procedure or the nurse is
23 relieved by another circulating nurse.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require that a circulating nurse be present during every surgical procedure that takes place in an operating room of a hospital or outpatient surgical facility.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]