



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 573

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 5913

House of Representatives, April 13, 2015

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WHO DECONTAMINATE REUSABLE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS OR DEVICES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Central service technician" means a person who
4 decontaminates, inspects, assembles, packages and sterilizes reusable
5 medical instruments or devices in a health care facility, whether such
6 person is employed by the health care facility or provides services
7 pursuant to a contract with the health care facility;

8 (2) "Health care facility" means an outpatient surgical facility, as
9 defined in section 19a-493b of the general statutes, or a hospital, as
10 defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, but does not include
11 a chronic disease hospital, as defined in section 19a-550 of the general
12 statutes;

13 (3) "Health care provider" means a person or organization that
14 provides health care services and is licensed in accordance with title 20
15 of the general statutes; and

16 (4) "Central service department" means a department within a
17 health care facility that processes, issues, and controls medical
18 supplies, devices, and equipment, both sterile and nonsterile, for
19 patient care areas of a health care facility.

20 (b) Unless otherwise permitted pursuant to this section, no person
21 may practice as a central service technician unless such person
22 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Public Health
23 that such person (1) has successfully passed a nationally accredited
24 central service exam for central service technicians and holds and
25 maintains one of the following credentials: (A) A certified registered
26 central service technician credential administered by the International
27 Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management, (B) a
28 certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential
29 administered by the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and
30 Distribution, Inc., or (C) a substantially equivalent credential, or (2)
31 was employed or otherwise contracted for services as a central service
32 technician in a health care facility before January 1, 2016.

33 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
34 a person who is hired or contracts for services as a central service
35 technician in a health care facility, but does not otherwise meet the
36 requirements of subsection (b) of this section, may perform the
37 functions of a central service technician, provided he or she (1) obtains
38 a certified registered central service technician credential administered
39 by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel
40 Management or a certified sterile processing and distribution
41 technician credential administered by the Certification Board for
42 Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc., and (2) submits
43 documentation evidencing such credential to the Department of Public
44 Health, not later than two years after such person's date of hire or
45 contracting for services with the health care facility.

46 (d) A central service technician shall complete a minimum of ten
47 hours of continuing education annually and, upon completion, submit
48 documentation evidencing such completion to the Department of
49 Public Health. The continuing education shall be in areas related to the
50 functions of a central service technician.

51 (e) A health care facility shall, upon the written request of a central
52 service technician, verify, in writing, the central service technician's
53 dates of employment or the contract period during which the central
54 service technician provided services to the health care facility.

55 (f) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the following persons from
56 performing the tasks or functions of a central service technician: (1) A
57 health care provider, (2) a student or intern performing the functions
58 of a central service technician under the direct supervision of a health
59 care provider as part of the student's or intern's training or internship,
60 or (3) a person who does not work in a central service department in a
61 health care facility, but who has been specially trained and determined
62 competent, based on standards set by a health care facility's infection
63 prevention or control committee, acting in consultation with a central
64 service technician certified in accordance with subsection (b) of this
65 section, to decontaminate or sterilize reusable medical equipment,
66 instruments or devices, in a manner that meets applicable
67 manufacturer's instructions and standards.

68 (g) A health care facility shall retain a list of persons determined
69 competent under subsection (f) of this section. Such list shall include
70 job titles for such persons. A person determined competent pursuant
71 to subsection (f) of this section shall annually complete a minimum of
72 ten hours of continuing education in areas related to infection control
73 and the decontamination and sterilization of reusable medical
74 equipment, instruments and devices and submit documentation
75 evidencing the completion of such continuing education to the
76 Department of Public Health.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill establishes requirements of central service technicians (CST) and limits persons from engaging in CST practice without certification/recognition by certain professional organizations. It is anticipated that the Department of Public Health can enforce the provisions of the bill without incurring a fiscal impact by sampling personnel files during routine inspections of hospitals and outpatient surgical facilities.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5913

AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WHO DECONTAMINATE REUSABLE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS OR DEVICES.

SUMMARY:

This bill generally requires anyone who practices as a central service technician (CST) to pass a national exam and to be certified or have similar credentials. A CST is someone who decontaminates, inspects, assembles, packages, and sterilizes reusable medical instruments or devices in a health care facility, whether the person is employed by the facility or provides contracted services.

The bill allows those who were employed or contracted for services as a CST in a health care facility before January 1, 2016 to continue to do so without any examination or further credentials. It also exempts certain health-related professions, students, and interns that perform CST tasks or functions from these requirements.

The bill requires CSTs and exempted people, who have been deemed competent to perform CST functions, to annually take 10 hours of continuing education.

Upon a CST's written request, the bill requires a health care facility to verify in writing a CST's employment dates or the contract period when he or she provided health care services.

The bill does not set penalties for CSTs or the facilities that violate these provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016

QUALIFICATIONS

The bill generally prohibits anyone from practicing as a CST unless

he or she demonstrates to the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner's satisfaction that he or she has successfully passed a nationally accredited central service exam for CSTs and has certain credentials. The person must hold and maintain one of the following:

1. a certified registered CST credential administered by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management;
2. a certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential administered by the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc.; or
3. a substantially equivalent credential.

Under the bill, a person certified under option 1 or 2, but who has not passed the national exam, may perform CST functions at a health care facility if he or she obtains and submits documentation of such credential to DPH within two years after the date of hire or contracting with the health care facility.

(The bill does not prescribe the application process or give DPH any specific enforcement powers.)

EXEMPTIONS

The bill allows the following people to perform CST tasks or functions without certification or examination:

1. licensed health care providers;
2. students or interns performing CST functions under a health care provider's direct supervision as part of their training or internship; or
3. those who do not work in a health care facility's central service department (i.e., the department that processes, issues, and controls medical supplies, devices, and equipment for patient care), but who have been specially trained and determined

competent to decontaminate or sterilize reusable medical equipment, instruments, or devices, meeting applicable manufacturer’s instructions and standards, based on standards set by a health care facility’s infection prevention or control committee, acting in consultation with a certified CST (one who has passed the examination or was employed before January 1, 2016).

A health care facility must retain a list of the people determined competent to perform CST functions, including their job titles.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The bill requires a CST to annually complete at least 10 hours of continuing education in areas related to CST functions. An exempt person determined competent to perform CST functions must also annually complete at least 10 hours of continuing education in areas related to infection control and the decontamination and sterilization of reusable medical equipment, instruments, and devices.

Under the bill, CSTs, and those determined competent to perform CST functions, must submit documentation of their completed continuing education hours to DPH.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/25/2015)