



House of Representatives

File No. 788

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

(Reprint of File No. 573)

Substitute House Bill No. 5913
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 8, 2015

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 supplies,
18 devices and equipment, both sterile and nonsterile, for patient care
19 areas of a health care facility.

20 (b) Unless otherwise permitted pursuant to this section, no person
21 shall practice as a central service technician unless such person (1) (A)
22 has successfully passed a nationally accredited central service exam for
23 central service technicians and holds and maintains one of the
24 following credentials: (i) A certified registered central service
25 technician credential administered by the International Association of
26 Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management, or (ii) a certified
27 sterile processing and distribution technician credential administered
28 by the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc.,
29 or (B) was employed or otherwise contracted for services as a central
30 service technician in a health care facility before January 1, 2016, or (2)
31 obtains a certified registered central service technician credential
32 administered by the International Association of Healthcare Central
33 Service Materiel Management or a certified sterile processing and
34 distribution technician credential administered by the Certification
35 Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc., not later than two
36 years after such person's date of hire or contracting for services with
37 the health care facility.

38 (c) A central service technician shall complete a minimum of ten
39 hours of continuing education annually. The continuing education
40 shall be in areas related to the functions of a central service technician.

41 (d) A health care facility shall, upon the written request of a central
42 service technician, verify, in writing, the central service technician's
43 dates of employment or the contract period during which the central
44 service technician provided services to the health care facility.

45 (e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the following persons from

46 performing the tasks or functions of a central service technician: (1) A
 47 health care provider; (2) a student or intern performing the functions
 48 of a central service technician under the direct supervision of a health
 49 care provider as part of the student's or intern's training or internship;
 50 or (3) a person who does not work in a central service department in a
 51 health care facility, but who has been specially trained and determined
 52 competent, based on standards set by a health care facility's infection
 53 prevention or control committee, acting in consultation with a central
 54 service technician certified in accordance with subsection (b) of this
 55 section, to decontaminate or sterilize reusable medical equipment,
 56 instruments or devices, in a manner that meets applicable
 57 manufacturer's instructions and standards.

58 (f) A health care facility shall retain a list of persons determined
 59 competent under subsection (e) of this section. Such list shall include
 60 job titles for such persons. A person determined competent pursuant
 61 to subsection (e) of this section shall annually complete a minimum of
 62 ten hours of continuing education in areas related to infection control
 63 and the decontamination and sterilization of reusable medical
 64 equipment, instruments and devices.

65 (g) Any health care facility that employs or contracts with a central
 66 service technician shall submit to the Department of Public Health,
 67 upon request, including, but not limited to, during an inspection
 68 performed pursuant to section 19a-496 of the general statutes,
 69 documentation demonstrating that such central service technician is in
 70 compliance with the requirements set forth in this section.

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

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 by certain professional organizations. It also requires a health care facility that employs a CST to submit, upon the request of the Department of Public Health (DPH), documentation demonstrating compliance with these CST requirements. It is anticipated that DPH can undertake the provisions of the bill without incurring a fiscal impact.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and replaces it with provisions that result in the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5913 (as amended by House "A")******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 requires any health care facility that employs or contracts with a CST to submit to the Department of Public Health (DPH), upon request (including during an inspection), documentation demonstrating that a CST is in compliance with the bill's requirements.

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

*House Amendment "A" (1) replaces certain DPH oversight functions with the provision requiring health care facilities to provide documentation upon the department's request, (2) generally limits the qualifications an individual must have to practice as a CST, and (3) makes minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016

QUALIFICATIONS

The bill generally prohibits anyone hired or contracted after January 1, 2016 from practicing as a CST unless 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 or
2. a certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential administered by the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc.

Under the bill, a person who has either certification, but has not passed the national exam, may perform CST functions if he or she obtains the certification within two years after the date of hire or contracting with the health care facility.

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 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 a health care facility’s infection prevention or control committee standards; such person must also be acting in consultation with a certified CST 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.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

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