



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 9/8/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1160

Sponsors

*Representatives Ginal & Lontine
Senator Tate*

Short Title

*Sunset Surgical Assistants
Surgical Technicians*

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill which became effective on August 10, 2016.

Summary

This bill requires surgical assistants and surgical technologists to pass a background check as part of the registration process. Employers who require a registrant who is applying for employment to submit to a drug test must forward any positive drug test results to the Department of Regulatory Agencies. The bill extends the surgical assistants and surgical technologists registration program until September 1, 2021.

Background

Surgical assistants help surgeons during surgery with exposed surgical sites, controlling bleeding, closing incisions, and other technical aspects of the surgery. Surgical technicians prepare the operating rooms for surgery and assist during the surgery by passing surgeons instruments and supplies and maintaining a sterile surgical field. The surgical assistants and surgical technologists registration program was established in 2010; however, Colorado does not require any specific education or certification to register as a surgical assistant or surgical technologist.

House Action

House Health, Insurance, and Environment Committee (March 15, 2016). At the hearing,

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representatives from the Association of Surgical Assistants, Association of Surgical Technologists, Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials, Colorado Society of Anesthesiologists, Liver Health Connection, and Tri-County Health Department, and two private citizens testified in support of the bill. Two representatives of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses testified in a neutral capacity on the bill, and a representative from the Department of Regulatory Agencies responded to questions from the committee.

The committee adopted amendments L.002 and L.007, and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole. Amendment L.002 required surgical assistants and surgical technologists to pass a background check as part of the registration process. Amendment L.007 required an employer who requires a registrant who is applying for employment to submit to a drug test to forward any positive drug test results to the director of the Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

House second reading (March 21, 2016). The bill was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

House Appropriations Committee (April 7, 2016). The committee adopted amendment J.001 and referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole, as amended. The amendment added an appropriations clause to the bill.

House second reading (April 12, 2016). The House adopted the House Health, Insurance and Environment and Appropriations committee reports. The House passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

House third reading (April 14, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Finance Committee (April 21, 2016). A representative from the Association of Surgical Assistants and Association of Surgical Technologists, and two public citizens testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Appropriations Committee with no amendments.

Senate Appropriations Committee (May 5, 2016). The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

Senate second reading (May 5, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

Senate third reading (May 6, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Relevant Research

2015 Sunset Review: Surgical Assistants and Surgical Technologist Registration Program. Department of Regulatory Agencies (October 15, 2016). <http://bit.ly/2bll5ZN>