



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2009 Assembly Bill 744

Assembly Amendment 1

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Assembly Bill 744 defines the term “surgical technology” and prohibits an ambulatory surgery center or a hospital from employing a person to perform surgical technology unless at least one of the following applies: (1) the person has successfully completed an accredited educational program for surgical technology and holds a valid surgical technologist certification issued by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting or a successor organization; (2) the person successfully completed a training program for surgical technology while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or in the federal Public Health Service; (3) the person is employed to perform surgical technology on the effective date of the bill (August 1, 2011); or (4) the person is licensed as a nurse, physician, or physician assistant.

Assembly Amendment 1 makes the following changes to the bill:

- The amendment deletes from the definition of “surgical technology” the part of the definition that involves preparing an operating room for a surgical procedure by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely. In addition, the definition is modified by deleting the reference to “an operating room” from the part of the definition that involves preparing an operating room and the sterile field for a surgical procedure by preparing supplies, instruments, and equipment.
- The amendment modifies the portion of the bill that allows an ambulatory surgery center or hospital to employ a person to perform surgical technology if the person is licensed as a nurse, physician, or physician assistant. The amendment adds language allowing an ambulatory surgery center or hospital also to employ a person to perform surgical technology if the person is licensed or certified by the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL) or an examining board or affiliated credentialing board in DRL to provide a health care service and the scope of the practice for which a person is licensed or certified includes providing care in an operating room or a preparation area for the operating room; or the person is participating in a training program that is required to obtain such a license or certification.

- The amendment modifies that portion of the bill that requires certain employed persons to complete 60 hours of continuing education related to surgical technology every four years and to submit proof of completion to the ambulatory surgery center or hospital. The amendment requires that the continuing education be “specifically” related to surgical technology. In addition, the amendment requires the person to maintain records demonstrating proof of completion of the continuing education hours and, upon request by the ambulatory surgery center or hospital, to submit a copy of the records to that entity.

Legislative History

The Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1, and passage of the bill as amended, both on votes of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0.

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