A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING REQUIRING CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIANS TO POSSESS PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

A central service technician (CST) is a person who decontaminates, inspects, assembles, packages, and sterilizes reusable medical instruments or devices in a hospital or ambulatory surgical center. The bill generally prohibits any individual from functioning as a CST unless the individual has successfully passed a nationally accredited exam and holds at least one of 2 professional credentials. The bill also
generally prohibits hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers from employing a CST who does not satisfy these requirements. However, the new requirements do not apply to an individual who:

- Was employed as a CST in one or more hospitals or ambulatory surgical centers for a cumulative period of at least one year during the period beginning December 31, 2015, and ending December 31, 2020;
- Is employed as a CST by a hospital or ambulatory surgical center on December 31, 2020; and
- Remains continuously employed as a CST after December 31, 2020.

Additionally, an individual who does not satisfy the new requirements may function as a CST in a hospital or ambulatory surgical center for up to 18 months so long as the individual continues to make a good-faith effort to satisfy the requirements during this time.

A hospital or ambulatory surgical center may employ a CST who does not satisfy the new requirements if the CST qualifies for one of the described exceptions.

At the request of an individual who was employed as a CST by a hospital or ambulatory surgical center, the hospital or ambulatory surgical center shall verify in writing the individual's dates of employment or the contract period during which the individual provided services.

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Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 25-3-124 as follows:

25-3-124. Central service technician - examination and certification required - exceptions - verification of employment - definitions. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER" MEANS AN AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER LICENSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-3-101.

(b) "CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO DECONTAMINATES, INSPECTS, ASSEMBLES, PACKAGES, AND STERILIZES REUSABLE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS OR DEVICES IN A HOSPITAL OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER.
(c) "HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL" has the meaning set forth in Section 13-64-202 (4).

(d) "HEALTH CARE SERVICES" has the meaning set forth in Section 25-49-102 (6).

(e) "HOSPITAL" means a hospital licensed pursuant to Section 25-3-101.

(2) (a) Except as described in subsection (3) of this section, an individual shall not function as a central service technician unless the individual:

(i) has successfully passed a nationally accredited central service exam for central service technicians; and

(ii) holds and maintains at least one of the following credentials, which credentials are administered by a nationally accredited central service technician credentialing organization:

(A) the certified registered central service technician credential; or

(B) the certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential.

(b) Except as described in subsection (3) of this section, neither a hospital nor an ambulatory surgical center shall employ or otherwise retain the services of a central service technician unless the central service technician satisfies the requirements described in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(3) (a) The requirements described in subsection (2)(a) of this section do not apply to an individual who:

(i) was employed as a central service technician in one or
MORE HOSPITALS OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS FOR A
CUMULATIVE PERIOD OF AT LEAST ONE YEAR DURING THE PERIOD
BEGINNING DECEMBER 31, 2015, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020;

(II) WAS EMPLOYED AS A CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN BY A
HOSPITAL OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER ON DECEMBER 31, 2020;
AND

(III) REMAINS CONTINUOUSLY EMPLOYED AS A CENTRAL SERVICE

(b) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS
DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY FUNCTION AS A
CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN FOR UP TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS SO LONG AS
THE INDIVIDUAL CONTINUES TO MAKE A GOOD-FAITH EFFORT TO SATISFY
THE REQUIREMENTS DURING THIS TIME.

(c) A HOSPITAL OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER MAY EMPLOY
A CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OR
(3)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

(4) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS A HOSPITAL OR
AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER FROM EMPLOYING THE FOLLOWING
INDIVIDUALS TO PERFORM THE TASKS OR FUNCTIONS OF A CENTRAL
SERVICE TECHNICIAN:

(a) A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL;

(b) A PERSON WHO HOLDS AND MAINTAINS A REGISTRATION,
CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSE TO PERFORM HEALTH CARE SERVICES THAT IS
ISSUED BY A STATE OR A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED CREDENTIALING
ORGANIZATION; OR

(c) A STUDENT OR INTERN ACTING UNDER THE DIRECT
SUPERVISION OF A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL AS PART OF THE
STUDENT'S OR INTERN'S TRAINING OR INTERNSHIP.

(5) AT THE REQUEST OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS EMPLOYED AS A CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN BY A HOSPITAL OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER, THE HOSPITAL OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER SHALL VERIFY IN WRITING THE INDIVIDUAL'S DATES OF EMPLOYMENT OR THE CONTRACT PERIOD DURING WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL PROVIDED SERVICES.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect December 31, 2020; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect December 31, 2020, or on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.