
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1135 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY WARD, RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH AND BROWNE,
APRIL 18, 2018

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 18, 2018

AN ACT

1 Providing for certification of central service technicians;
2 imposing continuing education requirements on central service
3 technicians; and providing for duties of hospitals and
4 ambulatory surgical facilities and the Department of Health.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Central
9 Service Technician Certification Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Allied health professional." A person who holds and
15 maintains a registration, certification or license to perform
16 health care services by a state or a nationally accredited
17 credentialing organization.

18 "Ambulatory surgical facility." As defined in section 802.1
19 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the

1 Health Care Facilities Act.

2 "Central service technician." A person who provides the
3 services of inspecting, assembling, decontamination,
4 preparation, packaging and sterilization of reusable medical
5 instruments or devices in a hospital or an ambulatory surgical
6 facility.

7 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

8 "Health care practitioner." As defined in section 103 of
9 the Health Care Facilities Act.

10 "Hospital." As defined in section 802.1 of the Health Care
11 Facilities Act.

12 Section 3. Certification.

13 (a) General rule.--No person may function as a central
14 service technician in a health care facility and no health care
15 facility may employ or otherwise contract for the services of a
16 central service technician unless the person has successfully
17 passed a nationally accredited central service exam for central
18 service technicians and holds and maintains one of the following
19 credentials:

20 (1) Certified registered central service technician
21 credential.

22 (2) Certified sterile processing and distribution
23 technician credential.

24 (b) Exemption.--The certification requirement under
25 subsection (a) shall not apply to a person who has been employed
26 or otherwise contracted for services as a central service
27 technician in a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility on or
28 before December 31, 2018.

29 Section 4. Employment and continuing education.

30 (a) New employees.--A central service technician who fails

1 to comply with the requirements under section 3 shall have 18
2 months from the date of hire to comply with the requirements of
3 section 3.

4 (b) Continuing education.--A person who qualifies as a
5 central service technician in a hospital or an ambulatory
6 surgical facility under section 3 shall annually complete 10
7 hours of continuing education to remain qualified as a central
8 service technician. The continuing education required under this
9 subsection shall be in areas related to the functions of a
10 central service technician.

11 (c) Facility responsibility.--

12 (1) A hospital or ambulatory surgical facility shall
13 maintain documentation to verify that a person complies with
14 the requirements under section 3(a).

15 (2) If a person fails to comply with the requirements
16 under section 3(a), a hospital or ambulatory surgical
17 facility shall maintain documentation of a central service
18 technician's dates of employment or the contract period when
19 the central service technician provided services to the
20 hospital or ambulatory surgical facility to verify that the
21 central service technician satisfies the exemption
22 requirements under section 3(b).

23 Section 5. Health care practitioners and allied health
24 professionals.

25 Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit any of the
26 following persons from performing the tasks or functions of a
27 central service technician:

28 (1) A health care practitioner.

29 (2) An allied health professional.

30 (3) A dental assistant or an individual who is licensed

1 or registered under the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76),
2 known as The Dental Law.

3 (4) A student or intern who performs the functions of a
4 central service technician under the direct supervision of a
5 health care practitioner or an allied health professional as
6 part of the student's or intern's training or internship.

7 Section 6. Departmental duties.

8 The department shall administer the provisions of this act
9 and promulgate and adopt such regulations as may be necessary to
10 implement this act.

11 Section 7. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect January 1, 2019.