

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 390 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S2/2/17  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 167

By: Senator D. Sanders

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS  
ACT; TO ESTABLISH THE REGISTRATION OF SURGICAL  
TECHNOLOGISTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SURGICAL  
TECHNOLOGISTS ACT; AND TO ESTABLISH THE  
REGISTRATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 95, is amended to add an  
additional subchapter to read as follows:

#### Subchapter 10 – Surgical Technologists

##### 17-95-1001. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas  
Surgical Technologists Act".

##### 17-95-1002. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Surgical technologist" means an individual who performs the  
skills and techniques of surgical technology under the direction and  
supervision of a licensed practitioner other than in the course of practicing  
as a licensed healthcare professional; and

(2) "Surgical technology" means surgical patient care that  
includes without limitation:



(A) Preparing an operating room and a sterile field for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is assembled and functioning properly and safely;

(B) Preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment using sterile technique;

(C) Performing tasks in a sterile field, including:

(i) Maintaining asepsis and a sterile operating field;

(ii) Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments according to the needs of the surgical team;

(iii) Sponging or suctioning an operative site;

(iv) Preparing and cutting suture material;

(v) Providing irrigation solutions to the supervising physician and irrigating an operative site;

(vi) Providing drugs within the sterile field for administration by the supervising physician;

(vii) Handling specimens;

(viii) Holding retractors and other instruments;

(ix) Applying electrocautery to clamps on blood vessels;

(x) Connecting drains to a suction apparatus;

(xi) Applying dressings to closed wounds; and

(xii) Performing counts of supplies such as sponges, needles, and instruments with the registered nurse circulator; and

(D) The practice of surgical technology is a separate and distinct healthcare profession that does not include the practice of surgical assisting as performed by physician assistants, surgical assistants, or first assistants.

17-95-1003. Registration.

The Arkansas State Medical Board shall register as a surgical technologist an applicant who:

(1) Has successfully completed a nationally accredited surgical technology program and holds a current credential as a certified surgical technologist from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting or its successor or a national organization approved by the

Arkansas State Medical Board;

(2) Has successfully completed a surgical technologist training program during the person's service as a member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces; or

(3) Has been employed to practice as a surgical technologist at any time within the six (6) months before July 1, 2017, if the applicant registers with the Arkansas State Medical Board on or before July 1, 2018.

17-95-1004. Title protection.

A person shall not use or assume the title "registered surgical technologist" unless the person is registered with the Arkansas State Medical Board.

17-95-1005. Rules.

The Arkansas State Medical Board may adopt and promulgate rules to implement this subchapter.

*/s/D. Sanders*

**APPROVED: 03/06/2017**