

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/14/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2230

By: Representative Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CIRCULATING NURSES IN OPERATING ROOMS OF HOSPITALS AND AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE CIRCULATING NURSES IN OPERATING ROOMS OF HOSPITALS AND AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-9-104. Circulating nurses required in operating rooms –

Definitions.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Circulating nurse" means a registered nurse who is licensed to practice in the state and who is trained in perioperative nursing; and

(2) "Perioperative nursing" means a specialized area of nursing practice that involves the planning, coordination, delivery, and evaluation of nursing care to patients whose protective reflexes or self-care abilities are potentially compromised during surgical procedures.

(b) To enhance patient safety and protection, a hospital or an ambulatory surgery center licensed in this state shall adopt policies and procedures to:

(1) Require a circulating nurse to be:

(A) Assigned to an operating room for every procedure; and



(B) Present for the duration of the procedure unless the procedure requires the circulating nurse to leave the operating room as part of the procedure, the circulating nurse is relieved by another circulating nurse, or an exceptional emergency situation exists; and

(2) Coordinate the nursing care and safety needs of the patient in the operating room.

/s/Hammer