

2016 -- H 7448 SUBSTITUTE A

LC004133/SUB A/2

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

**RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES -
CIRCULATING NURSES**

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Bennett, Diaz, Naughton, and Malik

Date Introduced: February 03, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-17 of the General Laws entitled "Licensing of Health Care
2 Facilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-17-63. Patient safety -- Circulating nurses required in operating rooms. -- (a) The**
4 **following definitions apply in this section:**

5 (1) "Circulating nurse" means registered nurse licensed to practice in the state of Rhode
6 Island who is educated and trained in perioperative nursing.

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

10 (b) In order to enhance patient safety and protection, each hospital and freestanding
11 ambulatory surgical facility licensed in the state of Rhode Island shall adopt policies and
12 procedures to have a minimum of one circulating nurse physically present in each operating room
13 for the duration of each surgical procedure to:

14 (1) Coordinate the nursing care and safety needs of patients in the operating room; and

15 (2) Support the surgical team as appropriate during surgery.

16 (c) The department of health shall not issue or renew a license unless the applicant is in
17 compliance with this section.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on October 1, 2016.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES -
CIRCULATING NURSES

1 This act would require hospital and freestanding ambulatory surgical facility operating
2 rooms to have at least one circulating nurse present in each operating room during each surgical
3 procedure.

4 This act would take effect on October 1, 2016.

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