

## PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSEMBLY PENDING LEGISLATION — FACT SHEET

### AST Has Proposed a Bill to the Pennsylvania Legislature that Promotes Patient Safety and Gives Credibility To Our Profession!

#### THE MAIN POINTS:

- Our **Certification** bill, sponsored by Rep. Judy Ward, recommends education and competency standards for surgical technologists. View House Bill 1805 at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2017&slnd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1805>.
- The bill requires all new surgical techs entering the profession to: **(1)** graduate from an accredited surgical technology program **and (2)** earn and maintain the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).
- The bill contains a “grandfather” exception, which would guarantee the continued employment of surgical technologists (*whether certified or not!*) who are employed as surgical techs on or before a specific date (TBD).
  - “Grandfathered” means being allowed to continue working.  
“Grandfathered” does **NOT** mean automatic certification!
- If the bill is passed into law, then **all** surgical technologists working in Pennsylvania (*except Federal employees*) would be required to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) each year.
  - *If you’re a CST you’re covered because you’re already doing CE for the NBSTSA to keep your CST in good standing!*
- Nurses would **not** need to become CSTs to scrub! Nothing in the bill would prohibit a licensed practitioner from performing surgical technology tasks or functions, as long as they are acting within the scope of their license.
- Military-trained surgical techs would **NOT** need to re-train as civilians but would be required to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) each year.