

- SUBJECT:** Continuing education requirements for surgical technologists
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — S. Thompson, Wray, Allison, Frank, Ortega, Price, Sheffield, Zedler
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Coleman, Guerra, Lucio
- WITNESSES:** For — Jeff Feix, Texas State Assembly of AST; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Bobby Hillert, Texas Orthopaedic Association; Stefanie Steele-Galchutt, Texas State Assembly of AST; Tony Tran)
- Against — None
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1748 would require certified surgical technologists employed by a health care facility to practice surgical technology who had completed an accredited educational program to complete the number of hours of continuing education required to maintain certification.
- Certain other individuals who were employed by a health care facility to practice surgical technology would have to complete 30 hours of continuing education related to surgical technology every two years. These individuals would include those who had completed an appropriate training program for surgical technology in the U.S. armed forces or the U.S. Public Health Service, were employed to practice surgical technology prior to September 1, 2009, or were granted an appropriate exception by a health care facility to work as a surgical technologist.
- Upon the request of a health care facility, a surgical technologist would have to submit evidence of completion of the required continuing education. A health care facility could restrict the ability of a person employed to practice surgical technology in the facility if the person failed to complete the required continuing education.

An individual employed by a health care facility to practice surgical technology would not have to complete the required continuing education before September 1, 2020.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.