

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2015

H

1

HOUSE BILL 365*

Short Title: Enhance Patient Safety in Operating Rooms. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Adcock (Primary Sponsor).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Health.

March 30, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ENHANCE PATIENT SAFETY IN HOSPITAL AND AMBULATORY
SURGICAL FACILITY OPERATING ROOMS BY REQUIRING AT LEAST ONE
CIRCULATING NURSE TO BE PRESENT IN EACH OPERATING ROOM DURING
EACH SURGICAL PROCEDURE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 5 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is amended by
adding a new Part to read:

"Part 3A. Patient Safety.

"§ 131E-89. Circulating nurses required in operating rooms.

(a) The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Circulating nurse. - A registered nurse licensed to practice under Article 9A
of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes who is educated and trained in
perioperative nursing.

(2) Perioperative nursing. - 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 or other invasive procedures.

(b) In order to enhance patient safety and protection, the Commission shall adopt rules
to require each hospital licensed under this Article to have a minimum of one circulating nurse
physically present in each operating room for the duration of each surgical procedure to (i)
coordinate the nursing care and safety needs of patients in the operating room and (ii) support
the surgical team as appropriate during surgery.

(c) The Department shall not issue or renew a license under this Article unless the
applicant is in compliance with this section."

SECTION 2. Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is
amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 131E-153. Circulating nurses required in operating rooms.

(a) The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Circulating nurse. - A registered nurse licensed to practice under Article 9A
of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes who is educated and trained in
perioperative nursing.

(2) Perioperative nursing. - A specialized area of nursing practice that involves
the planning, coordination, delivery, and evaluation of nursing care to



1 patients whose protective reflexes or self-care abilities are potentially
2 compromised during surgical or other invasive procedures.
3 (b) In order to enhance patient safety and protection, the Commission shall adopt rules
4 to require each ambulatory surgical facility licensed under this Part to have a minimum of one
5 circulating nurse physically present in each operating room for the duration of each surgical
6 procedure to (i) coordinate the nursing care and safety needs of patients in the operating room
7 and (ii) support the surgical team as appropriate during surgery.
8 (c) The Department shall not issue or renew a license under this Part unless the
9 applicant is in compliance with this section."
10 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2015.