

# Oregon House Bill 2876

## What Ambulatory Surgical Centers Need to Know

November 2015

# Presenters

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# Disclaimer

- Please note: The Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists provides this information on an educational basis and does not offer legal advice. AST recommends that individuals or health care facilities consult with their attorneys for answers to legal questions.

# Presentation Overview

- History and Purpose of Oregon Surgical Technologist Law
- Crash Course Overview of Law and FAQs
- Practical Implementation for ASCs
  - Education Information
  - Verifying Certification
  - Grandfathering
  - Continuing Education
  - Urban versus rural
- Other States' Experiences



# History and Purpose

Deborah Turner, CST, CSFA

# Who are surgical technologists?

- Surgical technologists act as the surgeon's co-pilot, serving as a second set of hands and eyes in the operating room. The surgical technologist prepares and manages surgical equipment, instruments and supplies throughout surgery; manages specimens such as cancer, skin grafts and organs; and oversees the sterile integrity of the operating room, including the hundreds of pieces of equipment used in even the most basic surgery. Surgical technologists are critical in preventing surgical site infections and preventing surgical never events such as foreign retained objects.

# Certified Surgical Technologists = Patient Safety

- Surgical technologists are an integral member of the surgical team.
- Surgical technologists are responsible for the sterile field, aiming to promote surgical patient safety and prevent surgical site infections.
- Every minute a patient is under anesthesia, the risk of a procedure increases. Certified surgical technologists' ability to anticipate the sequential order of surgical procedures and the needs of surgeons contributes to successful surgical outcomes.
- Passage of a surgical technologist education and certification law ensures that all personnel caring for patients undergoing surgery are appropriately educated.

# Legislation Purpose

- Require education for newly-practicing surgical technologists
- Require certification for newly-practicing surgical technologists
- Create continuing education for all surgical technologists

# Data Supporting Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

## *Virginia Study*

- Data reveal that facilities utilizing only credentialed personnel as surgical technologists **reduced by 11%** the costs associated with extended stays due to surgical site infection.

Data source: [vapricepoint.org](http://vapricepoint.org)

## *Minnesota Study*

- Analysis of the data from 2009-2013, by facility, reveals that reported **adverse surgical events occurred 40% less often** in hospitals that require education and certification for surgical technologists compared to hospitals that do not require education or certification for surgical technologists.
- **Foreign retained objects occurred 55% less in hospitals** that require surgical technologist education and certification compared to hospitals that do not.

Data source: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/patientsafety/>

# Legislative History

- Legislation introduced in 2000s
- Many negotiations and compromises with stakeholders
- Increased recognition of surgical technology by legislators due to relentless educational efforts
- Increased support from legislators, including health policy experts and physicians
- House Bill 2876 filed February 2015 with Representative Greenlick as the prime sponsor
- House Health Committee: March and April 2015- amendments due to negotiations with stakeholders
- Bill carried by Representative Buehler to the Senate floor, passed House 56-3
- Senate Health Committee: May and June 2015
- Bill carried by Senator Knopp to the Senate floor, passed Senate 28-0.
- Governor Brown signed bill into law June 11, 2015

# Law Overview and FAQs

Tara Kruse, CST and Deborah Turner, CST, CSFA



# Sections of OR Surgical Technologist Law

- Definitions (health care facility, rural or medically underserved community, surgical technology)
- Qualifications to Practice
- Rural or Medically Underserved Community Provisions
- Licensed Health Care Practitioner
- Oregon Health Authority Rule Adoption
- Enactment and Effective Dates



# Definitions

- (1) "**Health care facility**" means a hospital or an ambulatory surgical center, as those terms are defined in ORS 442.015.
- (2) "**Rural or medically underserved community**" means a geographic area of this state that is 10 or more miles from the geographic center of a population center of 40,000 or more individuals.

# Definitions continued

- (3) "**Surgical technology**" means intraoperative surgical patient care that involves:
  - (a) Preparing an operating room for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely; ...

The definition of surgical technologists in the law is not a scope of practice. The statute simply defines surgical technology to indicate which professionals are subject to the minimum education, certification and continuing education standards in law. This is necessary because surgical technologists are mentioned nowhere else in Oregon law. The statute simply defines surgical technology to indicate which professionals are subject to the minimum education, certification and continuing education standards in law.

# Does the law affect ST scope? No.

Does the Oregon surgical technologist change the scope of practice for surgical technologists in Oregon?

**No.** The statute simply defines surgical technology to indicate which professionals are subject to the minimum education, certification and continuing education standards in law.

# Qualifications to Practice: Crux of law

1. Education and Certification; or
2. Completed US Military Surgical Technologist Training Program; or
3. Grandfathered

"To practice as a surgical technologist in Oregon, a surgical technologist must provide evidence to his or her employer of meeting one of following requirements:

The person provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person has completed an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority by rule and holds and maintains a surgical technologist certification issued by a nationally accredited certifying organization for surgical technologists approved by the authority by rule; or

The person provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person has completed a training program for surgical technologists in the US military and every two years completes 16 hours of continuing education approved by the authority; or

The person provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person practiced surgical technology during at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017 in a health care facility in Oregon or in another state or as an employee of an agency or institution of the federal government and every two years completes 16 hours of continuing education approved by the authority."

# 500 surgical technologists already CST-certified in Oregon

- Employers have many options:
  - The 500+ Certified Surgical Technologists in Oregon
  - Anyone who has worked as a surgical technologist two of the three years preceding January 1, 2017
  - Graduates of military surgical technology programs
  - Other licensed professionals
  - New graduates of accredited programs

# Education Provision

## Education and Certification

*The person provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person has completed an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority by rule and holds and maintains a surgical technologist certification issued by a nationally accredited certifying organization for surgical technologists approved by the authority by rule;*

The Oregon Health Authority has convened a committee to write rules. The ASCs and surgical technologists are represented on this committee.

# Surgical Technologist Education

- Graduates of accredited surgical technology programs have vast knowledge of anatomy and pathophysiology and their relationship to the surgical patient and procedure.
- Nationwide, there are more than 500 accredited surgical technology programs.
- Programs are generally twelve to twenty-four months in length resulting in a certificate or an Associate's Degree.
- Curriculum includes anatomy, physiology, microbiology, medical terminology, surgical asepsis, sterilization techniques, assembling and operating surgical equipment including lasers and robotics, medical ethics, basic and advanced surgical techniques and basic and advanced surgical operative procedures.



# Educational Accreditation

- Accreditation of educational programs ensures students receive high-quality education with qualified instructors with appropriate clinical placements at a financially solvent institution.
- Accreditation of a surgical technology programs involves thorough review of the program's resources including faculty, student/faculty ratio, financial resources, physical resources, learning resources, admissions policies, student records, curriculum, student evaluation methods and programmatic outcomes.
- Oregon surgical technology programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP): [www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org).
- Another educational accreditor is the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. No Oregon surgical technology educational programs are ABHES-accredited.
- OR-AST and AST endorse CAAHEP.




# Educational Accreditation

- The law states, "The person provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person has completed an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority by rule ..."
- Programs that are currently accredited are listed at accreditors websites, [www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org) and [www.abhes.org](http://www.abhes.org).

# Educational Accreditation

[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)



**CAAHEP** Commission on Accreditation  
of Allied Health Education Programs

[ABOUT ACCREDITATION](#) [FIND AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM](#) [FOR PROGRAM DIRECTORS](#) [FOR STUDENTS](#) [PUBLICATIONS & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS](#)

**CAAHEP Accredited Program Search**

There are nearly 2000 CAAHEP accredited programs that prepare entry level practitioners in 25 health sciences professions.

To determine if a program is accredited please use the "search function" provided below. When defining a search to locate an c the Profession and leave the "State" field as "All States/Provinces." Please note that a program is either accredited or it isn't. TH "in process." If you do not find the program you are looking for, it is NOT CAAHEP accredited.

We have no information about programs that have not been accredited by CAAHEP. The list of accredited programs on the CA

# Certification Provision

## Education and Certification

The person provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person has completed an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority by rule ***and holds and maintains a surgical technologist certification issued by a nationally accredited certifying organization for surgical technologists approved by the authority by rule;***

The Oregon Health Authority has convened a committee to write rules.

# CST Certification from NBSTSA

- Oregon rules do not allow pieces of legislation to include names of private entities.
- The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting confers surgical technologist certification.
- The certification conferred from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting is called the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential.
- Graduates of CAAHEP- and ABHES-accredited programs are eligible for the Certified Surgical Technologist exam to earn the Certified Surgical Technologist credential.

# CST Certification from NBSTSA

- The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting is a non-profit dedicated to providing professional certification to surgical technologists.
- Certification as a Certified Surgical Technologist demonstrates that the individual meets the national standard for knowledge that underlies surgical technologist practice.
- Certified individuals possess mastery of a broad range of skills related to surgical procedures, aseptic technique and patient care.

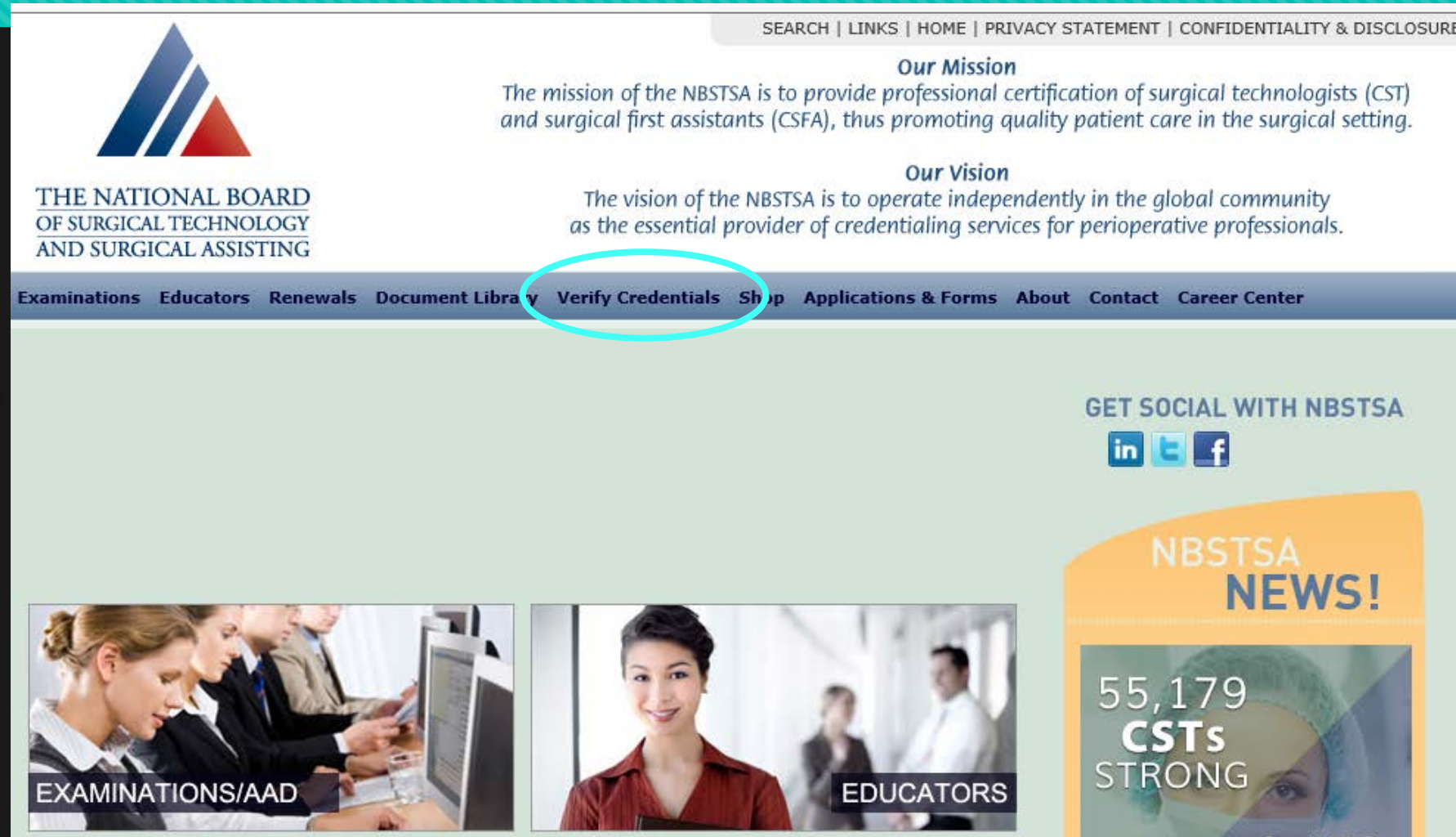
# CST Certification from NBSTSA

- CST Certification from NBSTSA almost always means a person has graduated from an accredited surgical technology educational program or is a military graduate.
- The only surgical technologists with a current CST credential who are not graduates of accredited surgical technology programs are either individuals who were practicing as surgical technologists before 1977 or individuals who graduated from a CAAHEP-accredited surgical *assisting* program.



# Verifying CST Certification: [www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org)

- Visit [www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org)
- Select "Verify Credentials"



The screenshot shows the homepage of The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). The website has a teal header with a navigation bar containing links: SEARCH | LINKS | HOME | PRIVACY STATEMENT | CONFIDENTIALITY & DISCLOSURE. Below the header, the NBSTSA logo is on the left, and the mission and vision statements are on the right. The mission statement reads: "The mission of the NBSTSA is to provide professional certification of surgical technologists (CST) and surgical first assistants (CSFA), thus promoting quality patient care in the surgical setting." The vision statement reads: "The vision of the NBSTSA is to operate independently in the global community as the essential provider of credentialing services for perioperative professionals." A horizontal navigation bar below these statements contains links: Examinations, Educators, Renewals, Document Library, Verify Credentials (highlighted with a red circle), Shop, Applications & Forms, About, Contact, and Career Center. Below the navigation bar, there are three main sections: "EXAMINATIONS/AAD" with an image of students at a computer, "EDUCATORS" with an image of a smiling woman, and "NBSTSA NEWS!" with a graphic showing "55,179 CSTs STRONG" and a photo of a surgical professional.

SEARCH | LINKS | HOME | PRIVACY STATEMENT | CONFIDENTIALITY & DISCLOSURE

**Our Mission**  
The mission of the NBSTSA is to provide professional certification of surgical technologists (CST) and surgical first assistants (CSFA), thus promoting quality patient care in the surgical setting.

**Our Vision**  
The vision of the NBSTSA is to operate independently in the global community as the essential provider of credentialing services for perioperative professionals.

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**NBSTSA NEWS!**  
55,179 CSTs STRONG

EXAMINATIONS/AAD

EDUCATORS

# Verify Credentials

- [Online Verification](#)
- [Official Verification Letter Request](#)

## Online Verification

This is an official search engine of the NBSTSA®. Searches resulting in positive responses may be used as official verification of certification. Please note that name changes, misspellings, transposed numbers, and new certificates may result in individuals not being found on a search - so always verify any *negative* response by contacting the NBSTSA office at 800-707-0057 or by e-mail to [mail@nbstsa.org](mailto:mail@nbstsa.org).

**Please enter the last name and EITHER the social security number OR the certification number:**

Certification Type: ☐ CST ☐ CSFA

Last Name:

SSN:

Certification  
Number:

Search Database





## Official Verification Letter Request

If you are an employer and wish to verify a practitioner's certification, please call 800-707-0057 or complete the form below. Email notifications will be sent to the email address specified below. Email and phone verifications are available without charge. Please indicate if you need confirmation in writing.

**\* indicates a required field**

### CST/CSFA Information

**\* First Name:**

**\* Last Name:**

**\* Certification Number:**

### Requestor Information

**\* Requestor's First Name:**

**\* Requestor's Last Name:**

**\* Requestor's Email:**

# Military

**Question:** May a health care facility hire a person who is not certified, but was trained as a surgical technologist in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Yes. A person who provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person has completed a training program for surgical technologists in the US military may be hired to work as a surgical technologist. Such individuals must complete 16 hours of continuing education every two years.

- Note: graduates of US military programs are eligible for Certified Surgical Technologist certification through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting.

# Grandfathering Language in Law

"...(A) Provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person practiced surgical technology during at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017:

- (i) In a health care facility in Oregon or in another state; or
- (ii) As an employee of an agency or institution of the federal government; and

(B) Every two years completes 16 hours of continuing education approved by the authority."

# Grandfathering FAQs

**May a health care facility hire a person who is not certified, but has documentation showing that they were practicing as a surgical technologist during at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017?**

Yes. The Oregon law states a health care facility may hire someone to practice surgical technology if he or she was employed as a surgical technologist in a health care facility in Oregon or in another state if the person practiced surgical technology during at two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017. These individuals must earn 16 hours of continuing education every two years.

# Grandfathering FAQs

May health care facilities require certification as a condition of employment, even if an individual is grandfathered in?

- Yes. Health care facilities may require certification for all individuals practicing surgical technology.

# Grandfathering does not equal CST certification

Are grandfathered individuals grandfathered into CST certification?

- No. Grandfathering means a person may continue to work as a surgical technologist after July 1, 2016 if he or she worked as surgical technologist for at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017.
- Qualifying to work under the law as a surgical technologist is not the same thing as being CST-certified.
- If a person is grandfathered under the Oregon law, it does not mean they are automatically CST-certified.
- Eligibility for initial CST certification is based on completion of accredited education and passage of a CST certification exam.
- Individuals who worked before 1977 as surgical technologists were grandfathered into CST certification if the person met the deadline 35+ years ago and has maintained CST certification. Otherwise, no one is grandfathered into CST certification.

# Grandfathering FAQs continued

May a person who worked as a surgical technologist in another state qualify under the grandfathering provision?

- Yes. The law explicitly states that a person may work as a surgical technologist in Oregon under the law if he or she provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person practiced surgical technology during at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017 in a health care facility in Oregon ***or in another state.***

# Grandfathering- Switching Facilities

May a person who was employed at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017 switch facilities?

Yes. The law explicitly states that a person may work as a surgical technologist in Oregon under the law if he or she provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person practiced surgical technology during at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017 in a health care facility in Oregon or in another state.



# Grandfathering and Military-Documentation

The law requires that individuals who qualify via grandfathering and military provide documentation to the health care facility.

- It reads: "Provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person has completed a training program for surgical technologists in the Army, Navy..." and
- "Provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person practiced surgical technology during at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017..."
- The Oregon Health Authority may write rules on documentation.
- If not, the hiring facility should determine what constitutes appropriate documentation.

# Which Oregon surgical technologists must earn continuing education?

The law requires continuing education for surgical technologists *who are not certified*, but qualify to work as surgical technologists under the military program graduate and grandfathering provisions of the law.

Thus,

- Military program ST program graduates who are not certified are required to earn continuing education; and
- Grandfathered surgical technologists who are not certified are required to earn continuing education.

# Continuing Education

The law requires 16 hours of continuing education every two years for uncertified grandfathered surgical technologists and uncertified military surgical technologists.

The law states the continuing education is approved by the Oregon Health Authority.

"...Every two years completes 16 hours of continuing education approved by the authority."

# Surgical technologists with certification not required to earn additional CE

- Certified Surgical Technologists earn continuing education as part of maintaining their certification.
- The law **does not** require additional continuing education for surgical technologists with current certification: only military graduates who are not certified and grandfathered surgical technologists who are not certified.

# Other Exceptions

# Grace Period for Students

May a health care facility hire a person who recently graduated from an accredited surgical technology program but has not passed the certification exam yet?

Yes. If a person recently graduated from an accredited surgical technology program, a health care facility may employ that person from the date of his or her graduation until 12 months after his or her graduation. By the one-year anniversary of the individual's graduation date, he or she must hold certification to continue to work as a surgical technologist.

# Rural or underserved communities

## What are the provisions in the law for rural or medically underserved facilities?

The law provides that a health care facility in a rural or medically underserved community may allow a person to practice as a surgical technologist at a health care facility who does not meet the educational, certification, military or grandfathering provisions of the law while the person is attending an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority by rule. If a person is hired as a surgical technologist under this provision, the person is exempt from the requirements of Section 2 (education, certification, military or grandfathering) for three years from the date on which the person began practicing as a surgical technologist at a health care facility.

"Rural or medically underserved community" means a geographic area of this state that is 10 or more miles from the geographic center of a population center of 40,000 or more individuals.



# Licensed health care practitioner

Do licensed registered nurses who work as surgical technologists need to obtain surgical technologist certification?

No. The certification requirement in the law does not apply to a health care facility that allows a licensed health care practitioner to perform the duties of a surgical technologist if the practitioner is acting ***within the scope of practice of the practitioner's license***.

A majority of facilities nationwide require graduation from an accredited surgical technology and Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) certification from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) to minimize malpractice risk, meet medical liability insurance requirements and meet the commonly-accepted standard of care.

# Additional Provisions of the Law

# Oregon Health Authority Rule Adoption

- "The Oregon Health Authority shall adopt rules necessary to carry out sections 1 to 5 of this 2015 Act."

# Effectives Dates- July 1, 2016 and July 1, 2017

- Most of the law takes effect on July 1, 2016.
- Section 3 (Rural and Underserved) becomes operative on July 1, 2017.
  - During the period beginning on July 1, 2016, and ending on July 1, 2017, sections 1 (definitions) and 2 (qualifications) do not apply to a rural or medically underserved community.
  - As used in this section, "rural or medically underserved community" means a geographic area of this state that is 10 or more miles from the geographic center of a population center of 40,000 or more individuals.

# Other States

- Similar laws have passed in Idaho, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Indiana, Tennessee, Texas and South Carolina.
- Implementation has been successful .
- No “unintended consequences.”
- AST has not received complaints from hospitals or ASCs.
- Law has not increased costs to facilities.

# BLS Data

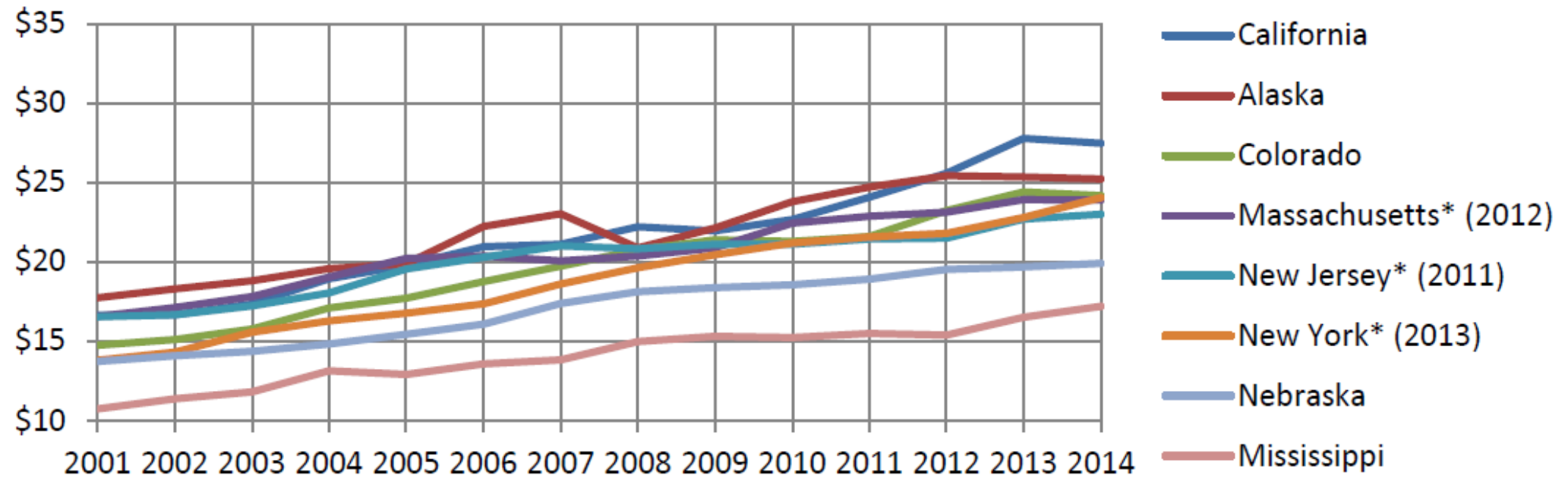
- Laws to create minimum education and certification standards for surgical technologists have not caused an increase in surgical technology wages.
- Wage data from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics demonstrate that surgical technologist wages in states with minimum education and certification surgical technology laws have similar trajectories as neighboring states without laws regulating surgical technologists, ***even in states in which the law was enacted many years ago.***
- Following are charts that show these states in various views. Raw data are included.
- The data are through 2014. The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of October 2015, has not published the 2015 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Wage Data

Surgical Technologist Average Hourly Wage by Year

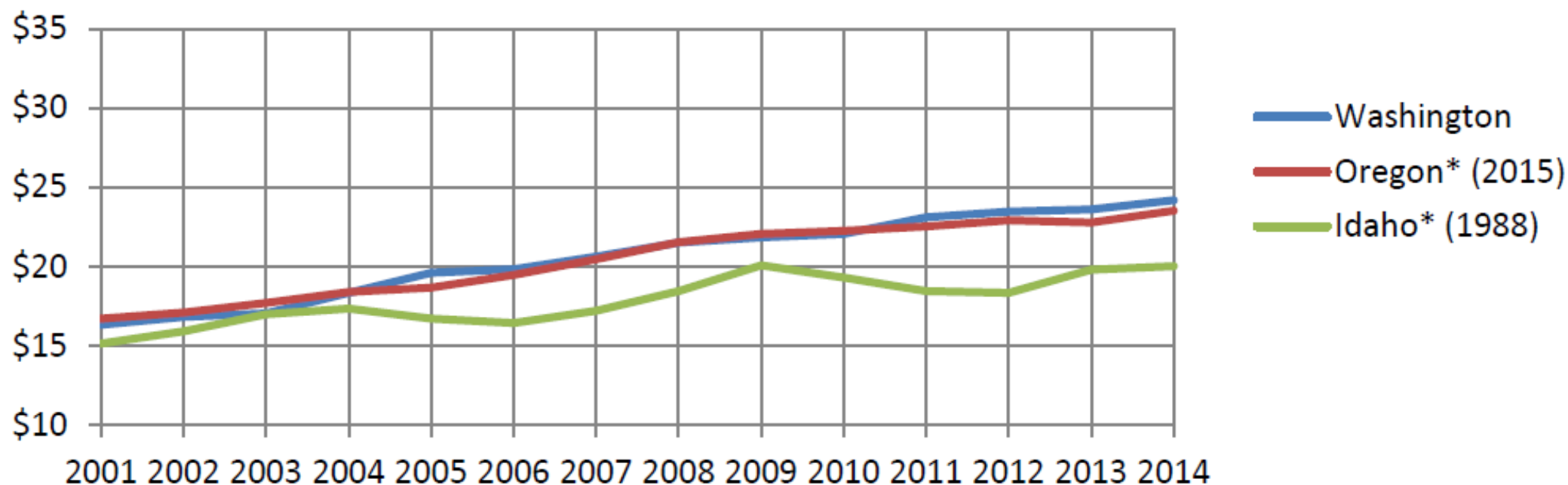
Source: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov), State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates





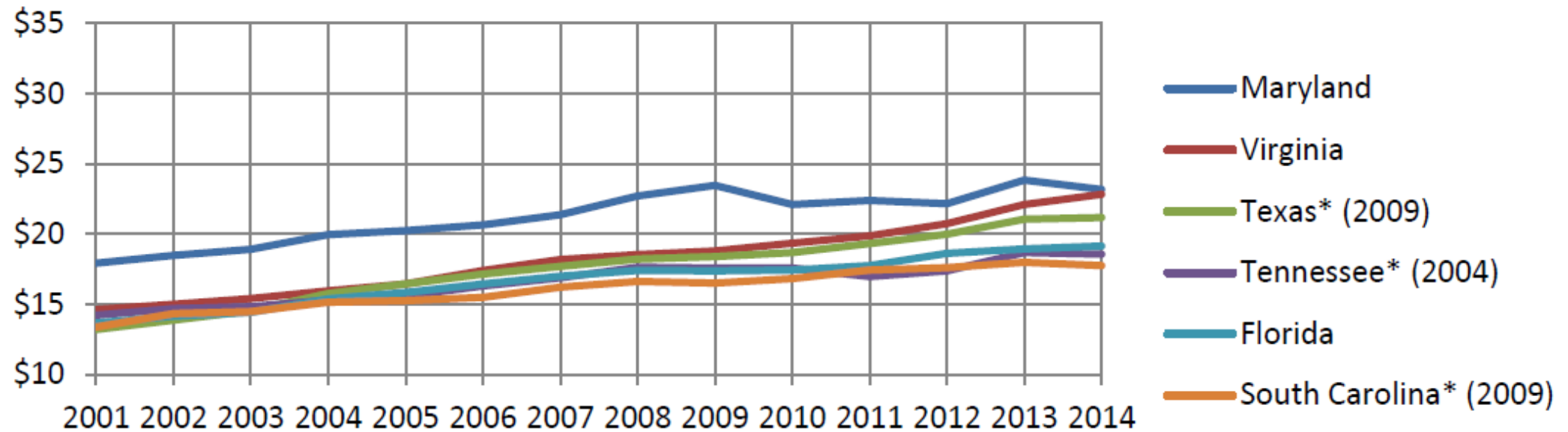
\*Denotes year the state passed a surgical technologist minimum education and certification law.

California, Alaska, Colorado, Nebraska and Mississippi do not have education or certification laws. New Jersey passed a law in 2011, Massachusetts passed a law in 2012 and New York passed a law in 2013. As you can see, wage trajectories were unaffected.



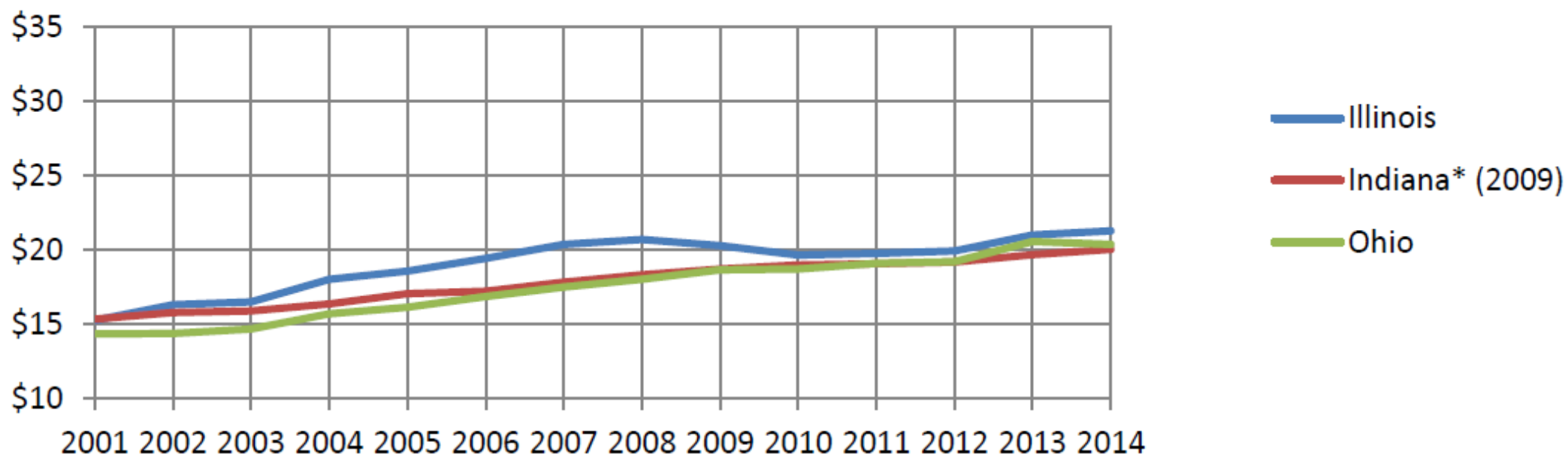
\*Denotes year the state passed a surgical technologist minimum education and certification law.

Idaho passed a law in 1988. Surgical technologist wages in Idaho remain lower than in Washington or Oregon.



\*Denotes year the state passed a surgical technologist minimum education and certification law.

Texas, Tennessee and South Carolina passed education and certification legislation in the 2000s. Their wages remain similar to other southern states, such as Virginia and Florida. Maryland wages are highly and likely correspond with cost of living.



\*Denotes year the state passed a surgical technologist minimum education and certification law.

Indiana passed an education and certification law in 2009. As you can see, wages remain nearly identical to neighboring Ohio and below wages in Illinois, both states without laws.

# Raw Data, Surgical Technologist Average Hourly Wage by State, Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CA	16.65	16.67	17.36	18.95	19.77	20.96	21.1	22.2	21.94	22.67	24.07	25.59	27.78	27.47
HI	16.04	16.79	16.69	16.27	17.17	19.37	20.5	20.63	21.88	23.56	25.41	25.77	26.80	27.05
AK	17.75	18.29	18.81	19.57	19.88	22.23	23.03	20.88	22.13	23.79	24.71	25.42	25.35	25.21
CO	14.76	15.12	15.77	17.11	17.72	18.76	19.72	20.75	21.39	21.30	21.60	23.23	24.40	24.18
WA	16.34	16.84	17.07	18.34	19.63	19.83	20.64	21.53	21.85	22.06	23.11	23.48	23.61	24.18
NY* (2013)	13.82	14.32	15.56	16.28	16.78	17.36	18.62	19.62	20.44	21.19	21.57	21.80	22.79	24.04
MA* (2012)	16.56	17.12	17.82	19.03	20.21	20.38	20.06	20.36	20.89	22.43	22.86	23.13	23.92	23.88
OR* (2015)	16.73	17.10	17.71	18.40	18.69	19.47	20.48	21.56	22.08	22.27	22.55	22.93	22.80	23.53
MD	17.94	18.48	18.91	19.96	20.25	20.65	21.38	22.72	23.47	22.09	22.38	22.15	23.85	23.18
NJ* (2011)	16.54	16.66	17.23	18.04	19.55	20.29	21.02	20.82	21.12	21.11	21.43	21.49	22.68	22.99
VA	14.62	15.00	15.4	15.95	16.45	17.39	18.19	18.54	18.81	19.34	19.86	20.75	22.11	22.81
IL	15.27	16.31	16.53	18.04	18.58	19.45	20.38	20.72	20.3	19.67	19.76	19.93	21.00	21.30
TX* (2009)	13.19	13.87	14.54	15.74	16.45	17.14	17.7	18.22	18.38	18.69	19.32	19.98	21.07	21.18
OH	14.36	14.40	14.69	15.71	16.15	16.88	17.5	18.04	18.67	18.73	19.12	19.23	20.58	20.39
IN* (2009)	15.35	15.81	15.91	16.39	17.06	17.24	17.84	18.35	18.72	19.01	19.07	19.20	19.70	20.04
ID* (1988)	15.15	15.93	17.01	17.36	16.74	16.46	17.22	18.45	20.1	19.33	18.47	18.35	19.82	20.04
NE	13.74	14.09	14.37	14.83	15.45	16.09	17.37	18.13	18.39	18.55	18.92	19.52	19.67	19.90
FL	13.66	14.16	14.42	15.37	15.85	16.44	16.99	17.4	17.38	17.43	17.76	18.62	18.95	19.15
KY	14.01	14.25	14.53	15.20	15.28	15.92	16.56	16.68	16.9	17.33	17.64	17.93	18.34	18.59
TN* (2004)	14.21	14.68	14.83	15.29	15.59	16.3	16.87	17.65	17.58	17.59	16.98	17.38	18.69	18.57
SC* (2009)	13.38	14.34	14.48	15.13	15.27	15.48	16.21	16.63	16.5	16.82	17.44	17.62	17.97	17.74
MS	10.74	11.38	11.82	13.14	12.92	13.59	13.83	14.98	15.32	15.25	15.50	15.38	16.52	17.20

# Surgical Site Infection Cost

- The surgical technologist is the professional in the operating room charged with the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the sterile field. The sterile field refers to surfaces that sterile objects, such as surgical instruments, may contact. The sterile field includes the area immediately around a patient that has been prepared for a surgical procedure. Protecting the sterile field involves carrying out specific procedures using sterile technique.
- The cost of a single surgical site infection is an estimated \$25,000 (studies range between \$21,000 per surgical site infection to \$29,000 per surgical site infection.)
- Reduction in surgical site infections would save lives and result in cost savings.

# Oregon Surgical Technologist Law Resources

- Oregon Surgical Technologist Law PDF:
- <http://bit.ly/1jSgb14>; or
- <http://or.ast.org/>; or
- AST members have access to Map of State Laws in Public Policy section of [www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)

Please note: The Association of Surgical Technologists provides this information on an educational basis and does not offer legal advice. AST recommends that individuals or health care facilities consult with their attorneys for answers to legal questions.



# Oregon Surgical Technologist Law Resources

- Tara Kruse, CST
- Member of Board of Directors of Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists
- [tara.oast@gmail.com](mailto:tara.oast@gmail.com)

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# Oregon Surgical Technologist Law Resources

- Email inquiries to [governmentaffairs@ast.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@ast.org).
- Include:
  - 1. Your name\*
  - 2. Your title\* (Human resources manager, surgical technologist, OR manager, etc.)
  - 3. Your state\*
  - 4. Your question(s)\*
  - 5. Your phone number

\*Required

Please note: The Association of Surgical Technologists provides this information on an educational basis and does not offer legal advice. AST recommends that individuals or health care facilities consult with their attorneys for answers to legal questions.

# Advice for implementation

- Look at the text of the law itself first. The law is the authoritative resource, and often the simplest resource. The law itself provides many answers.
- Use this PowerPoint as a resource.
- Stay tuned for Oregon Health Authority rules.
- Have a question? Don't hesitate to ask.