AN ACT

1 Providing for certification of central service technicians;
2 imposing continuing education requirements on central service
3 technicians; and providing for duties of hospitals and
4 ambulatory surgical facilities and the Department of Health.
5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:
7 Section 1. Short title.
8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Central
9 Service Technician Certification Act.
10 Section 2. Definitions.
11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:
14 "Ambulatory surgical facility." As defined in section 802.1
15 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the
16 Health Care Facilities Act.
17 "Central service technician." A person who provides the
18 services of inspecting, assembling, decontamination,
19 preparation, packaging and sterilization of reusable medical
instruments or devices in a hospital or an ambulatory surgical facility.

"Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

"Health care practitioner." As defined in section 103 of the Health Care Facilities Act.

"Hospital." As defined in section 802.1 of the Health Care Facilities Act.

Section 3. Certification.

(a) A person shall not function as a central service technician in a health care facility and a health care facility shall not employ or otherwise contract for the services of a central service technician unless the person has successfully passed a nationally accredited central service exam for central service technicians and holds and maintains one of the following credentials:

(1) Certified registered central service technician credential.

(2) Certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential.

(b) Exemption.—The certification requirement under subsection (a) shall not apply to a person who has been employed or otherwise contracted for services as a central service technician in a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility on or before the effective date of this section.

Section 4. Employment and continuing education.

(a) New employees.—A central service technician who does not meet the requirements under section 3 shall have 18 months from the date of hire to comply with section 3.

(b) Continuing education.—A person who qualifies to function as a central service technician in a hospital or an
ambulatory surgical facility under section 3 shall annually
complete 10 hours of continuing education to remain qualified as
a central service technician. The continuing education required
under this subsection shall be in areas related to the functions
of a central service technician.

(c) Facility responsibility.--

(1) A hospital or ambulatory surgical facility shall
maintain documentation to verify that a person meets the
certification requirements under section 3(a).

(2) If a person does not meet the certification
requirements under section 3(a), a hospital or ambulatory
surgical facility shall maintain documentation of a central
service technician's dates of employment or the contract
period when the central service technician provided services
to the hospital or ambulatory surgical facility to verify
that the central service technician meets the exemption
requirements under section 3(b).

Section 5. Scope of practice.

Nothing in this act may be construed to prohibit any of the
following persons from performing the tasks or functions of a
central service technician:

(1) A health care practitioner.

(2) A dental assistant or an individual who is licensed
or registered under the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76),
known as The Dental Law.

(3) A student or intern performing the functions of a
central service technician under the direct supervision of a
health care practitioner as part of the student's or intern's
training or internship.

(4) A person who holds and maintains a registration,
certification or license to perform health care services by a
nationally accredited credentialing organization.

Section 6. Departmental duties.
The department shall administer the provisions of this act
and promulgate and adopt regulations as may be necessary to
implement this act.

Section 7. Effective date.
This act shall take effect January 1, 2020.