

By Senator Calatayud

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to central service technician services; creating s. 395.1075, F.S.; providing legislative purpose and intent; defining the terms "central service technician" and "health care practitioner"; requiring that licensed hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers employ or otherwise retain the services of a central service technician only if he or she meets specified criteria; requiring central service technicians who do not meet specified criteria to obtain a certain certification within a specified timeframe as a condition of continued employment; requiring central service technicians to complete a specified number of continuing education hours annually as a condition of continued employment; providing a requirement for such continuing education; requiring that licensed hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers, upon the written request of a central service technician, verify in writing the technician's dates of employment or contract period with the facility; providing applicability; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 395.1075, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

395.1075 Central service technician services.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The legislative purpose

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for enacting this section is to ensure that every new central service technician employed by a hospital or an ambulatory surgical center in this state meets minimum requirements for safe practice as a member of the surgical care team. It is the intent of the Legislature that central service technicians who fall below minimum competency or who otherwise present a danger to public health and safety be prohibited from practicing in this state.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Central service technician” means a person who decontaminates, inspects, assembles, disassembles, packages, and sterilizes reusable medical instruments or devices for use by a licensed facility.

(b) “Health care practitioner” has the same meaning as in s. 456.001.

(3) CERTIFICATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIANS.—

(a) A licensed facility shall employ or otherwise retain the services of a central service technician only if such person has successfully passed a nationally accredited exam for central service technicians and meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. Holds and maintains a certified registered central service technician credential issued by a nationally accredited central service credentialing organization.

2. Holds and maintains a certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential issued by a nationally accredited central service credentialing organization.

3. Provides evidence that he or she was employed by, or

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provided services of a central service technician to, a licensed facility on or before December 31, 2026.

(b) A central service technician who does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) must obtain the required certified registered central service technician credential or certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential within 18 months after his or her date of hire in order to continue employment as a central service technician.

(c) A person who qualifies under paragraph (a) to practice as a central service technician in a licensed facility must complete at least 10 hours of continuing education annually to continue employment as a central service technician. The continuing education must be related to the functions of a central service technician.

(d) A licensed facility shall, upon the written request of a central service technician, verify, in writing, the central service technician's dates of employment or the contract period during which the central service technician provided services to the licensed facility.

(4) EXEMPTIONS.—This section does not apply to:

(a) A health care practitioner if he or she is acting within the scope of his or her license or certification.

(b) A student or an intern if he or she is 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.

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

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.