

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY FOR AN ACT REGULATING SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

This memo outlines the steps I took in securing the legislative history for An Act Regulating Surgical Technology (“the Bill”). The Bill adds section 225 to Chapter 111 of the Massachusetts General Laws. It was originally filed by Senator Brewer as Senate Bill 1069 in January of 2011, and was reported favorably by both the Joint Committee on Public Health (on July 20, 2011) and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing (on August 8, 2011) before being redrafted and renumbered as S2058 by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which Senator Brewer chairs. The Bill went to the House as H4298, which referred it to the Committee on Ways and Means. The Committee recommended that it pass with some amendments. The House passed the bill, the Senate concurred, and it was enacted and signed by the Governor on December 28, 2012.

The first step I took was to collect a timeline of the Bill and the text of all its amendments. I researched these on the State House website, and found there were three different version of the bill: S1069, H4298, and S2058. Using the information I gathered about the three versions of the bill, I merged their timelines to create a unifying picture of the Bill’s timeline.

The second step was collecting information available on InstaTrac. I visited the State House Library and worked with the librarians to find the correct information. InstaTrac augmented the information available on the State House Library, and provided information about the material presented during committee hearings and floor debate. I collected the testimony of three individuals who offered testimony at the public hearing on S1069. They were Gaby Gohen, President of Massachusetts’s Chapter of AORN, Tom Lescarbeau, President of Massachusetts State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists, and Catherine Sparkman, Director of Government and Public Affairs for the Association of Surgical Technologists. I also collected

the testimony of Bruce Tarr and Stephen Brewer, who offered testimony at the floor debate on S2056.

Third, I scoured the State House News website for news referencing the amendment numbers and key words. Information was limited, but there were minor references that corroborated the timeline information provided by State House website and InstaTrac. I also collected biography information on some of the key people involved in the legislation. The most prominent individual was Senator Brewer who supported the bill and offered testimony at the initial public hearing.

Fourth, I reached out to Senator Brewer's office for legislative history. His office sent over a copy of the testimony he read at the public hearing for S1069, as well as a link to a FAQ on the new bill, which can be found in the Misc section of this project. This testimony supplements testimony collected on InstaTrac for the floor debate on S2056. I also reached out to Senator Tarr's office, which provided me with additional resources, including a link to news releases by the Association of Peri-Operative Registered Nurses and the Massachusetts State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists. A PDF of these websites can be found in the Misc section of this project.

The fifth step was to scour the Senate and House Journals online. Like the State House News source, the information I found simply confirmed my initial timeline. At this time, I also searched the Department of Public Health's website for more information because the initial committee was the Joint Committee on Public Health. I did not find additional information on their website.

With all of the information collected and key individuals contacted, the final step was to put this information together in a presentable way. Folders are numbered with the more

important and relevant information first. Sub-folders are ordered in chronological order. Overall, the Bill's path through the Senate and House had little opposition, and received little attention from the press.