

A Bill This is a generic bill for licensure of Orthopedic Technologists. Each state legislature will change its form to meet their state requirements.

1. ARTICLE ___ ORTHOPEDIC TECHNOLOGISTS

2. Definition of the practice of orthopedic technology. Use of the title "orthopedic technologist". Requirements for professional licensure. Limited permits. Exemptions. State board.

Introduction. This article applies to the profession of orthopedic technology and to the use of the title "orthopedic technologist". The general provisions for all professions shall apply to this article.

Definition of the practice of orthopedic technology. The practice of orthopedic technology by an orthopedic technologist shall mean the performance of the following medical services under the supervision of a physician or surgeon involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients:

1. Patient assessment for purposes of orthopedic procedures;
2. Applying and removing casts;
3. Measuring and fitting patients for orthopedic braces, devices, and ambulatory aids;
4. Assisting in the application, maintenance, and adjustment of orthopedic traction;
5. Fabricating and applying splints and bandages;
6. Removing sutures, staples, and pins related to orthopedic procedures
7. Instructing patients in the care of casts, splints, braces, or orthopedic devices and related skin care;
8. Assisting a physician and surgeon in orthopedic surgical procedures. For the purposes of this article, "supervision" shall mean a licensed physician or surgeon's oversight of the activities of, and responsibility for, the medical services rendered by an orthopedic technologist.

Use of the title "orthopedic technologist". No person, other than one who is currently certified or registered as an orthopedic technologist shall practice as an orthopedic technologist or in a similar capacity or hold himself or herself out as an "orthopedic technologist," or shall use any other term indicating or implying that he or she is an orthopedic technologist.

Requirements for professional licensure. To qualify as a orthopedic technologist, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

1. Application: file an application with the department;
2. Experience: have experience in the practice of orthopedic technology satisfactory to the board and the department in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
3. Examination: pass an American Society of Orthopedic Professionals examination in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;

4. Age: be at least eighteen years of age;
5. Character: be of good moral character as determined by the department;
6. Fee: pay a fee for an initial license and a fee for each triennial registration period.

Limited permits. Permits limited as to eligibility, practice and duration shall be issued by the department to eligible applicants.

1. Eligibility. A person who fulfills all requirements for a license as a professional orthopedic technologist except those relating to examination or experience shall be eligible for a limited permit;
2. Limit of practice. A permittee shall be authorized to practice orthopedic technology under the direction of an available licensed or certified orthopedic technologist or orthopedic surgeon;
3. Duration. A limited permit shall be valid for two years with the successful completion of forty hours of continuing education units in orthopedic technology. Continuing education units must be submitted to the American Society of Orthopedic Professionals. At the completion of the forty hours of continuing education, the American Society of Orthopedic Professionals will present to the limited permittee an official letter confirming continuing education has been completed, which will be filed with the state. The limited permit may be renewed biennially at the discretion of the department. The permittee can renew up to three consecutive times; after that timeframe the permittee must pass the American Society of Orthopedic Professionals or examination;
4. Fee. The fee for each limited permit and for each renewal will be ____

Exemptions.

5. Nothing in this article shall be construed to affect, prevent or in any manner expand or limit the authority of any person otherwise authorized by law or regulation to practice any function of an orthopedic technologist.

6. State board. A state board for orthopedic technology shall be appointed by the board of regents on recommendation of the commissioner for the purpose of assisting the board of regents and the department on matters of professional licensing and professional conduct in accordance with this act. The board shall be composed of at least three licensed orthopedic technologists and at least three public representatives who do not hold interests in the organization, financing, or delivery of orthopedic technologies. Additionally, the board shall contain no less than two orthopedic surgeons. Members of the first board need not be licensed prior to their appointment to the board. The terms of the first appointed members shall not exceed five years and may be renewed for a period of three additional years at the discretion of the commissioner. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law