



AORN Chapter 4702 Legislative Committee Report March 1, 2017

Protecting Health Professionals in the Workplace

HB1921 SB973 Great news! On Feb 20th HB 1921 was signed by Governor McAuliffe and will go into effect on July 1, 2017! Under current law, increased penalties only apply to a battery against an emergency healthcare provider in the emergency room of a hospital or other facility providing emergency care. This bill ensures that health professionals are protected equally in the hospital setting or other facilities providing emergency care, and not only in the emergency room. The bill also requires the Department of health to work with stakeholder groups to develop guidelines regarding the publications of penalties for battery on a healthcare provider and for the training of healthcare professionals and providers in violence prevention programs. If you or someone you know contacted your legislator in support of this bill –THANK YOU!

RN Circulator Bills introduced in VT

Legislation requiring an RN as Circulator for every operating room for the duration of the surgical procedure was introduced recently in Vermont. House bill 126 and Senate bill 31 were introduced by champions of patient safety Rep. Kathleen Keenan and Sen. Virginia Lyons. AORN is working closely with the periOperative nurses in Vermont. Over 30 states address the role of RN circulators in operating rooms. AORN Government Affairs will continue to advocate for these bills and provide updates on the progression.

AORN will celebrate with all healthcare providers **National “Time Out” day** sometime in June. More information will be announced. I hope to meet with AORN Government affairs Danielle Glover personally when I travel to the AORN Surgical Conference/Convention in Boston. If you have any questions/concerns please document them in writing and I would be more than happy to discuss the issues with Danielle. You can also contact Danielle personally at dglover@aorn.org if you have questions or concerns. You can consider adding your name to the AORN roster to participate in the third Monday of each month National Legislative Forum conference phone calls.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie P. Vencill, RN, CNOR