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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Board of Medicine, Department of Health Professions
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	18VAC85-160
VAC Chapter title(s)	Regulations Governing the Licensure of Surgical Assistants and Certification of Surgical Technologists
Action title	Licensure by endorsement for surgical assistants and surgical technologists
Final agency action date	6/4/2026
Date this document prepared	6/4/2026

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

Pursuant to Chapters 561 and 553 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly, the Board of Medicine is adding a licensure by endorsement pathway for surgical assistants and surgical technologists.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined

in the ORM procedures, “a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part.”

The mandate for this action is Chapters 561 and 553 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly.

This action is exempt from the Administrative Process Act pursuant to Chapters 561 and 553 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly, as stated in the legislation.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) that the agency has “adopted final amendments” to the regulation; 3) the name of the agency taking the action; and 4) the title of the regulation. A suggested statement is, “On [insert date] the Board/Department of [insert name] adopted final amendments to the [title of regulation(s)].”

On June 4, 2026, the Board of Medicine adopted final amendments to Regulations Governing the Licensure of Surgical Assistants and Certification of Surgical Technologists.