

Office of Regulatory Management
Economic Review Form

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	Amendments for surgical assistants consistent with a licensed profession
Date this document prepared	10/7/2024
Regulatory Stage (including Issuance of Guidance Documents)	Final

Cost Benefit Analysis

Complete Tables 1a and 1b for all regulatory actions. You do not need to complete Table 1c if the regulatory action is required by state statute or federal statute or regulation and leaves no discretion in its implementation.

Table 1a should provide analysis for the regulatory approach you are taking. Table 1b should provide analysis for the approach of leaving the current regulations intact (i.e., no further change is implemented). Table 1c should provide analysis for at least one alternative approach. You should not limit yourself to one alternative, however, and can add additional charts as needed.

Report both direct and indirect costs and benefits that can be monetized in Boxes 1 and 2. Report direct and indirect costs and benefits that cannot be monetized in Box 4. See the ORM Regulatory Economic Analysis Manual for additional guidance.

Table 1a: Costs and Benefits of the Proposed Changes (Primary Option)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Legislation passed by the 2020 General Assembly changed regulation of surgical assistants from registration to licensure, and amendments that conformed to the statute were enacted. Additional amendments are necessary to provide for consistency with other licensed allied professions regulated by the Board of Medicine in the fee structure, continuing competency, inactive licensure, and standards of practice.</p> <p>The fees are an increase from their previous amounts as surgical assistants will now be regulated at the highest level this agency regulates, so the fees should reflect those of the highest level of regulation. However, these fees are not as high as other licensed professions (ex. MDs). The fee structure is similar to other allied professions and will help cover the cost of discipline and licensing staff at the Board.</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) Fees associated with licensure of surgical assistants (\$130 initial, \$135 renewal) and surgical technologists (\$75 initial, \$70 renewal). Other fees associated with this profession are outlined in the regulation	(b) None, strictly speaking, although surgical assistants will now be a licensed profession. Increased fees as a result of regulation change of surgical assistants to licensure will help fund disciplinary investigations and proceedings as surgical assistants are now subject to disciplinary action under Virginia Code § 54.1-2915
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	Net cost	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	None	
(5) Information Sources		

Table 1b: Costs and Benefits under the Status Quo (No change to the regulation)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	There is no status quo to consider. The Board has been required to amend regulations by the General Assembly.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits

	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	N/A	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	N/A	
(5) Information Sources		

Table 1c: Costs and Benefits under Alternative Approach(es)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	There is no alternative approach to consider. The Board has been mandated to make changes to regulation by the General Assembly.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	N/A	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	N/A	
(5) Information Sources		

Impact on Local Partners

Use this chart to describe impacts on local partners. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 2: Impact on Local Partners

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	There is no impact on local partners.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits

	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	N/A	
(4) Assistance		
(5) Information Sources		

Impacts on Families

Use this chart to describe impacts on families. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 3: Impact on Families

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	There is no impact on families.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	N/A	
(4) Information Sources		

Impacts on Small Businesses

Use this chart to describe impacts on small businesses. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 4: Impact on Small Businesses

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	There is no impact on small businesses.
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(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	N/A	
(4) Alternatives		
(5) Information Sources		

Changes to Number of Regulatory Requirements

Table 5: Regulatory Reduction

For each individual action, please fill out the appropriate chart to reflect any change in regulatory requirements, costs, regulatory stringency, or the overall length of any guidance documents.

Change in Regulatory Requirements

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Authority of Change	Initial Count	Additions	Subtractions	Total Net Change in Requirements
18VAC85-160	(M/A):	4	0	0	0
	(D/A):	0	1	0	+1
	(M/R):	0	4	0	+4
	(D/R):	12	46	0	+46
Grand Total of Changes in Requirements:					(M/A): 0 (D/A): +1 (M/R): +4 (D/R): +46

Key:

Please use the following coding if change is mandatory or discretionary and whether it affects externally regulated parties or only the agency itself:

(M/A): Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting the agency itself

(D/A): Discretionary requirements affecting agency itself

(M/R): Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting external parties, including other agencies

(D/R): Discretionary requirements affecting external parties, including other agencies

Cost Reductions or Increases (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Requirement	Initial Cost	New Cost	Overall Cost Savings/Increases

Other Decreases or Increases in Regulatory Stringency (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Change	Overview of How It Reduces or Increases Regulatory Burden
18VAC85-160	Added inactive licensure	Allows a licensee to maintain an inactive license at a reduced fee and allows them to re-enter the profession quicker than letting their license lapse.

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Length of Guidance Documents (only applicable if guidance document is being revised)

Title of Guidance Document	Original Word Count	New Word Count	Net Change in Word Count

*If the agency is modifying a guidance document that has regulatory requirements, it should report any change in requirements in the appropriate chart(s).