

HB 1557

2004

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to health insurance; amending s. 627.419,  
 3           F.S.; including certified surgical assistants, as defined,  
 4           within certain benefits or services payment provisions;  
 5           limiting application; providing an effective date.

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 7   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 9           Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 627.419, Florida  
 10          Statutes, is amended to read:

11           627.419 Construction of policies.--

12           (6)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when  
 13          any health insurance policy, health care services plan, or other  
 14          contract provides for payment for surgical first assisting  
 15          benefits or services, the policy, plan, or contract is to be  
 16          construed as providing for payment to a registered nurse first  
 17          assistant or employers of a physician assistant or nurse first  
 18          assistant who performs such services that are within the scope  
 19          of a physician assistant's or a registered nurse first  
 20          assistant's professional license. ~~The provisions of This~~  
 21          paragraph applies ~~subsection apply~~ only if reimbursement for an  
 22          assisting physician, licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459,  
 23          would be covered and a physician assistant or a registered nurse  
 24          first assistant who performs such services is used as a  
 25          substitute.

26           (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when any  
 27          insurance policy, health care services plan, or other contract  
 28          provides for payment for surgical first assisting benefits or  
 29          services, the policy, plan, or contract is to be construed as

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30 providing for payment to a certified surgical assistant or to  
31 the employer of a certified surgical assistant who performs such  
32 services that are assigned by the supervising physician,  
33 osteopathic physician, or registered nurse. This paragraph  
34 applies only if reimbursement for an assisting physician  
35 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 would be covered and  
36 the certified surgical assistant who performs such services is  
37 used as a substitute. As used in this paragraph, the term  
38 "certified surgical assistant" means a person who is an  
39 unlicensed health care provider that is directly accountable to  
40 a physician licensed under chapter 458, or an osteopathic  
41 physician licensed under chapter 459, or, in the absence of a  
42 physician or osteopathic physician, a registered nurse licensed  
43 under chapter 464, and who is certified by the National Surgical  
44 Assistant Association on the Certification of Surgical  
45 Assistants, the Liaison Council on Certification of Surgical  
46 Technologists, or the American Board of Surgical Assistants.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.