

By Senator Lawson

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to health insurance; amending s. 627.419, F.S.; including certified surgical assistants, as defined, within certain benefits or services payment provisions; limiting application; providing an effective date.

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

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

627.419 Construction of policies.--

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

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

1 assistant or to the employer of a certified surgical assistant
2 who performs such services that are assigned by the
3 supervising physician or osteopathic physician or is, in the
4 absence of a physician or osteopathic physician, accountable
5 to a registered nurse. This paragraph applies only if
6 reimbursement for an assisting physician licensed under
7 chapter 458 or chapter 459 would be covered and the certified
8 surgical assistant who performs such services is used as a
9 substitute. As used in this paragraph, the term "certified
10 surgical assistant" means a person who is an unlicensed health
11 care provider that is directly accountable to a physician
12 licensed under chapter 458, or an osteopathic physician
13 licensed under chapter 459, or, in the absence of a physician
14 or osteopathic physician, a registered nurse licensed under
15 chapter 464, and who is certified by the National Surgical
16 Assistant Association on the Certification of Surgical
17 Assistants, the Liaison Council on Certification of Surgical
18 Technologists, or the American Board of Surgical Assistants.

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

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22 SENATE SUMMARY

23 Provides for health insurance to pay for services
24 rendered by certified surgical assistants, as defined,
25 which meet certain criteria.

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