

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

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

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

12           627.419 Construction of policies.--

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

27           (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when any  
 28           health insurance policy, health care services plan, or other

CODING: Words **stricken** are deletions; words **underlined** are additions.

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

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.