

By Senator Fasano

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to health insurance; amending s. 627.419, F.S.; including certified surgical first 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

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

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

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22 SENATE SUMMARY

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