

1 SB444
2 150005-2
3 By Senator Bussman
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 16-APR-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law there is no provision
9 for reimbursement by insurers to registered nurse
10 first assistants who perform surgical first
11 assistant services.

12 This bill would provide for legislative
13 intent.

14 This bill would provide for reimbursement by
15 insurers to registered nurse first assistants who
16 perform surgical first assistant services.

17 This bill would provide for related matters.

18 This bill would repeal conflicting laws.

19
20 A BILL

21 TO BE ENTITLED

22 AN ACT

23
24 Relating to nursing; to provide for legislative
25 intent; to provide for reimbursement by insurers to registered
26 nurse first assistants who perform surgical first assistant

1 services; to provide for related matters; and to repeal
2 conflicting laws.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may
5 be cited as the "Registered Nurse First Assistant Consumer
6 Act."

7 (b) The Legislature declares that the intent of this
8 act is to:

9 (1) Encourage the continued use of registered nurse
10 first assistants who meet the qualifications of this section
11 as "assistants at surgery" by physicians and surgical
12 facilities to provide quality, cost-effective surgical
13 intervention to health care recipients in the state.

14 (2) Establish policies within managed health care
15 agencies, workers' compensation carriers, and all private
16 insurance companies to provide for adequate and justifiable
17 reimbursement for the registered nurse first assistant for
18 services rendered.

19 (c) As used in this section, the following terms
20 shall have the following meanings:

21 (1) HEALTH BENEFIT POLICY. An individual or group
22 plan, policy, or contract for health care services issued,
23 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state,
24 including, but not limited to, those policies, plans, or
25 contracts executed by the State of Alabama on behalf of state
26 employees by a health care corporation, health maintenance
27 organization, preferred provider organization, accident and

1 sickness insurer, fraternal benefit society, hospital service
2 corporation, medical service corporation, workers'
3 compensation insurance carrier, or other insurer or similar
4 entity.

5 (2) INSURER. An accident and sickness insurer,
6 managed care company that provides health care coverage to its
7 subscribers, non-profit health services corporation, fraternal
8 benefit society, hospital service corporation, workers'
9 compensation insurance carrier, medical service corporation,
10 health care corporation, health maintenance organization,
11 managed care plan other than a dental plan, or any similar
12 entity authorized to issue contracts under this title, but
13 shall exclude any state program funded under Title XIX of the
14 federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 1396, et
15 seq., and any other publicly funded state health care program.

16 (3) PERIOPERATIVE NURSING. A practice of registered
17 professional nursing in which the registered nurse provides
18 preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative nursing care
19 to surgical patients.

20 (4) RECOGNIZED EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM PROGRAM. A
21 program that:

22 a. Addresses all content of the Association of
23 Perioperative Registered Nurses, Inc., Core Curriculum for the
24 Registered Nurse First Assistant and the Certification Board
25 of Perioperative Nurses.

26 b. Includes indicated didactic and clinical
27 internship as required by the curriculum.

1 (5) REGISTERED NURSE FIRST ASSISTANT. A person who:

2 a. Is licensed as a registered professional nurse in
3 the State of Alabama.

4 b. Is certified in perioperative nursing.

5 c. Has successfully completed a registered nurse
6 first assistant education program that meets the Association
7 of Perioperative Registered Nurses, Inc.'s education standard
8 for the registered nurse first assistant.

9 d. Was holding the title of and practicing as a
10 registered nurse first assistant as of January 1, 1993.

11 (d) Notwithstanding any provisions in policies or
12 contracts which might be construed to the contrary, whenever
13 any health benefit policy which is issued, executed, or
14 renewed in this state on or after July 1, 2014, provides that
15 any of its benefits are payable to a surgical first assistant
16 for services rendered, the insurer shall be required to
17 directly reimburse any registered nurse first assistant who
18 has rendered such services at the request of a physician and
19 within the scope of a registered nurse first assistant's
20 professional license.

21 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
22 first day of the third month following its passage and
23 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.