

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 769
By: Carona
Public Health
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The 77th Texas Legislature set forth provisions relating to the practice, education, and training of a surgical assistant, and created an advisory committee to advise the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners concerning the regulation of surgical assistants. However, inconsistencies between the state statutory surgical assistant licensure processes and federal surgical assistant certification standards have led to a surgical assistance shortage in Texas. This bill provides that a surgical assistant license expires on the second anniversary of the date of issuance.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 206.210(a), Occupations Code, to provide that a surgical assistant's license expires on the second anniversary of the date of issuance. Requires the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners by rule to provide for the renewal of a surgical assistant license.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter F, Chapter 206, Occupations Code, by adding Section 206.2525, as follows:

Sec. 206.2525. REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES. (a) Provides that this chapter does not limit the way in which a surgical assistant licensed under this chapter may be reimbursed for services.

(b) Authorizes a surgical assistant licensed under this chapter to directly bill a patient or third-party payor for services provided by the surgical assistant.

SECTION 3. (a) Effective date: September 1, 2003.

(b) Makes application of Section 206.210(a), as amended by this Act, prospective.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.