

By: Armbrister

S.B. No. 1815

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reimbursement under the workers' compensation system for certain surgical assistants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 408, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 408.0295 to read as follows:

Sec. 408.0295. SURGICAL ASSISTANT SERVICES. (a) An insurance carrier may not refuse to reimburse a health care practitioner solely because the practitioner is a surgical assistant licensed under Chapter 206, Occupations Code, for a covered service that a physician providing health care services under this subtitle has requested the surgical assistant to perform.

(b) A surgical assistant described by this section shall be reimbursed on the same basis as a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist who functions as a first assistant in surgery.

SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a claim for workers' compensation benefits based on a compensable injury that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. A claim based on a compensable injury that occurs before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date that the compensable injury occurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.