

By: Armbrister

S.B. No. 1815

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to reimbursement under the workers' compensation system
3 for certain surgical assistants.

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

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

7 Sec. 408.0295. SURGICAL ASSISTANT SERVICES. (a) An
8 insurance carrier may not refuse to reimburse a health care
9 practitioner solely because the practitioner is a surgical
10 assistant licensed under Chapter 206, Occupations Code, or a
11 surgical first assistant certified by a national certifying
12 organization approved by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners
13 for a covered service that a physician providing health care
14 services under this subtitle has requested the surgical assistant
15 to perform.

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

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

1 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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