

1-1 By: Armbrister S.B. No. 1815
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 23, 2005; April 4, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
1-4 April 21, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 21, 2005,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1815 By: Armbrister

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to reimbursement under the workers' compensation system
1-11 for certain surgical assistants.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 408, Labor Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 408.0295 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 408.0295. SURGICAL ASSISTANT SERVICES. (a) An
1-16 insurance carrier may not refuse to reimburse a health care
1-17 practitioner solely because the practitioner is a surgical
1-18 assistant licensed under Chapter 206, Occupations Code, for a
1-19 covered service that a physician providing health care services
1-20 under this subtitle has requested the surgical assistant to
1-21 perform.

1-22 (b) A surgical assistant described by this section shall be
1-23 reimbursed on the same basis as a physician assistant, nurse
1-24 practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist who functions as a first
1-25 assistant in surgery.

1-26 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a claim for workers'
1-27 compensation benefits based on a compensable injury that occurs on
1-28 or after the effective date of this Act. A claim based on a
1-29 compensable injury that occurs before that date is governed by the
1-30 law in effect on the date that the compensable injury occurred, and
1-31 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-32 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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