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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 748 Session of 2005

INTRODUCED BY BEBKO-JONES, CALTAGIRONE, CAWLEY, DeWEESE, JOSEPHS, LEDERER, GRUCELA, GEORGE, READSHAW, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, TANGRETTI, JAMES, PETRARCA, RUBLEY, GOOD, PISTELLA AND HARPER, MARCH 1, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, MARCH 1, 2005

AN ACT

Amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), entitled "An act relating to insurance; amending, revising, and consolidating the law providing for the incorporation of insurance companies, and the regulation, supervision, and protection of home and foreign insurance companies, Lloyds associations, reciprocal and inter-insurance exchanges, and fire insurance rating bureaus, and the regulation and supervision of insurance carried by such companies, associations, and exchanges, including insurance carried by the State Workmen's Insurance Fund; providing penalties; and repealing existing laws," providing for third-party reimbursement for services of registered nurse first assistants.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 635.2. Third-party Reimbursement for Services of Registered Nurse First Assistants.--(a) Every hospital, health or medical expense insurance policy, hospital or medical service contract, employe welfare benefit plan, health maintenance

organization subscriber agreement, health and accident insurance policy or other insurance contract of this type, including a group insurance plan or self-insurance plan that provides medical and surgical benefits which are delivered, issued for delivery or renewed in this Commonwealth on or after January 1, 2004, shall provide coverage of perioperative services rendered by a registered nurse first assistant. Payments for registered nurse first assistants for such services shall be subject to the same credentialing and contracting requirements that apply to other heath care providers paid for such services.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Perioperative services" means preoperative, intraopertive and postoperative nursing care provided to surgical patients.

(2) "Registered nurse first assistant" means a person who:

(i) is licensed as a registered nurse in accordance with the laws of this Commonwealth;

(ii) is experienced in perioperative services; and

(iii) has completed a national certification program of perioperative services.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.