

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2622 Session of  
2004

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, BEBKO-JONES, DeWEESE, DONATUCCI, FABRIZIO,  
FLEAGLE, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI,  
HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, LaGROTTA, SCRIMENTI, SOLOBAY, TIGUE,  
WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD AND FREEMAN, MAY 24, 2004

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, MAY 24, 2004

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), entitled "An  
2 act relating to insurance; amending, revising, and  
3 consolidating the law providing for the incorporation of  
4 insurance companies, and the regulation, supervision, and  
5 protection of home and foreign insurance companies, Lloyds  
6 associations, reciprocal and inter-insurance exchanges, and  
7 fire insurance rating bureaus, and the regulation and  
8 supervision of insurance carried by such companies,  
9 associations, and exchanges, including insurance carried by  
10 the State Workmen's Insurance Fund; providing penalties; and  
11 repealing existing laws," requiring benefits for physician  
12 assistant services.

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

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

18 Section 635.2. Benefits for Physician Assistant Services.--

19 (a) As used in this section:

20 (1) "Commissioner" means the Insurance Commissioner of the  
21 Commonwealth.

22 (2) "Physician assistant" has the meaning given in section 2

1 of the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the  
2 "Medical Practice Act of 1985."

3 (3) "Physician assistant services" means the general and  
4 usual services rendered and care administered by a physician  
5 assistant.

6 (b) This section applies to the following:

7 (1) Each group health or sickness insurance policy providing  
8 hospital or medical/surgical coverage.

9 (2) Each group accident insurance policy providing hospital  
10 or medical/surgical coverage.

11 (3) Each group subscriber contract or certificate providing  
12 hospital or medical/surgical coverage issued by an entity  
13 subject to any of the following:

14 (i) this act;

15 (ii) 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to hospital plan  
16 corporations) or 63 (relating to professional health services  
17 plan corporations); or

18 (iii) the act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364), known  
19 as the "Health Maintenance Organization Act."

20 (c) Except as set forth in subsection (e), a policy,  
21 contract or certificate specified in subsection (b) shall, in  
22 addition to other provisions required by this act, include  
23 within the coverage benefits for physician assistant services.

24 (d) The benefits specified in subsection (c) may be provided  
25 through any of the following:

26 (1) A combination of policies, contracts or certificates.

27 (2) A prospective payment plan.

28 (e) Subsection (c) shall not apply to any of the following:

29 (1) A Medicare or Medicaid supplemental contract.

30 (2) A limited coverage accident and sickness policy. This

1 clause includes cancer insurance, polio insurance and dental  
2 care and any similar policy identified as exempt from this  
3 section by the commissioner.

4 (f) Nothing in this section shall serve to diminish the  
5 benefits of any insured or subscriber in effect on the effective  
6 date of this section nor to prevent the offering or acceptance  
7 of benefits which exceed the minimum benefits required by this  
8 section.

9 Section 2. The addition of section 635.2 of the act shall  
10 apply to policies, contracts or certificates issued or renewed  
11 on or after the effective date of this section.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.