

As Engrossed: 2/23/93

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1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Senator Bearden**

A Bill

SENATE BILL 249

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 23-79-114 TO REQUIRE
9 INSURANCE COVERAGE TO INCLUDE SERVICES OF CERTIFIED
10 REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS TO THE SAME EXTENT THOSE
11 SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY PERSONS LICENSED UNDER THE
12 ARKANSAS MEDICAL PRACTICES ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE
15 ANESTHETISTS."
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 23-79-114 is amended by inserting an
21 additional subsection at the end thereof to read as follows:

22 "(f) Notwithstanding any provision of any individual or group policy of
23 accident and health insurance, or any provision of a policy, contract, plan,
24 or agreement for hospital or medical service or indemnity, in cases where the
25 policy, contract, plan, or agreement provides for payment or reimbursement for
26 any anesthesia services provided by persons licensed under the Arkansas
27 Medical Practices Act, 17-93-201 et seq., the person entitled to benefits or
28 persons providing services under the policy, contract, plan, or agreement are
29 entitled to *the same method of payment* for the service when the service is
30 provided by any person licensed as a certified registered nurse anesthetist
31 and operating within his area of competence.

32 (1) No person entitled to benefits under this subsection shall be
33 denied freedom of choice to select any practitioner licensed under 17-86-302
34 by any insurer or agency or employee of the insurer or by any department,

1 agency, or employee of this state.

2 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to enlarge or
3 diminish the practice of certified registered nurse anesthetist under 17-86-
4 302.

5 (3) The purpose of this subsection is to insure that persons
6 licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, 17-93-201 et seq., or
7 persons licensed as certified registered nurse anesthetists under 17-86-302
8 shall be entitled to *the same method of payment* for anesthesia services."
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10 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
11 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
12 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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14 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
15 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
16 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
17 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
18 act are declared to be severable.

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20 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
21 hereby repealed.

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23 /s/ Senator Bearden

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