

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Avakian, Gordly, Monroe, Prozanski

Nays: 0

Exc.: Beyer

Prepared By: Anna Braun, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/7, 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Repeals the sunset on the law allowing nurse practitioners to provide compensable medical services in workers' compensation claims.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Availability of care in rural areas
- Costs of nurse practitioners verses physicians

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Resolves conflicts with HB 2756A and HB 2244A.

BACKGROUND: In 2003, the Legislature passed HB 3669 which expanded the role of nurse practitioners in the workers' compensation system. The bill allowed nurse practitioners to provide compensable medical services to injured workers for up to 90 days, authorize temporary disability payments for up to 60 days, and release the worker to and manage the worker's return to work in that time period. Workers were also allowed to "bring" their nurse practitioners into a managed care organization under specific circumstances. Nurse practitioners were required to certify with the Workers' Compensation Division that they have reviewed educational materials developed by the director in order to provide compensable services.

HB 2247-B repeals the sunset provisions of HB 3669 and makes the expansion of compensable medical services by nurse practitioners permanent.