



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2009 Assembly Bill 675	Assembly Amendment 1, as Amended
<i>Memo published:</i> March 22, 2010	<i>Contact:</i> Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2982)

Assembly Bill 675 makes the following changes in the statutes relating to nurse-midwives: (1) allows a hospital to grant a nurse-midwife who is covered under the Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund (IPFCF; formerly referred to as the Patients Compensation Fund or PCF) any hospital staff privilege that a hospital must afford to physicians and podiatrists, including hospital staff privileges to admit, treat, and discharge any patient for whom a nurse-midwife is qualified to provide care; (2) eliminates the requirement that a nurse-midwife practice in collaboration with a physician with postgraduate training in obstetrics, and pursuant to a written agreement with that physician; and (3) allows a nurse-midwife to be an optional participant in the IPFCF; currently, nurse-midwives may be covered by the IPFCF only through their health care provider employer who is covered.

Assembly Amendment 1 makes nurse-midwives mandatory participants in the IPFCF, rather than optional participants as under the bill. The mandatory participation would take effect on the first day of the third month after publication by the Commissioner of Insurance of a notice that specifies the effective date of a rule that sets fees to be paid by nurse-midwives for participation in the IPFCF. The rule may provide for a separate payment classification or for a payment classification that is combined with one or more categories of health care providers, as the commissioner, after approval by the IPFCF Board of Governors, determines is appropriate for pooling risks under the Fund. In addition, the amendment adds to the IPFCF Board of Governors a person to be named by the Wisconsin Nurses Association.

Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1 deletes the additional member on the IPFCF Board of Governors. Instead, the amendment to the amendment requires that of the four public members appointed to the IPFCF Board of Governors, at least one must be named by the Wisconsin Nurses Association.

Legislative History

The Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 2; adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 2; and passage of the bill as amended on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 3.

RNS:jal