

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 12-0634.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

**HOUSE BILL 12-1221**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Liston**, Kerr J., Balmer, Miklosi, Summers, Swalm, Williams A.

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Tochtrop**, Boyd, Morse

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**House Committees**  
Economic and Business Development

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING BILLING FOR ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill requires clinical laboratories and physicians that provide anatomic pathology services to submit claims for payment for pathology services only to the patient; the insurance carrier; the hospital or clinic that ordered the service, or the referring laboratory, unless the laboratory is from a physician's office or group practice that does not perform the professional component of the anatomic pathology service; or a

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 15, 2012

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 14, 2012

governmental agency on behalf of the recipient of services.

Licensed health care practitioners are prohibited from charging for anatomic pathology services unless the services were personally delivered by the practitioner or under the direct supervision of the practitioner. Laboratories that refer to another physician or laboratory for consultation or histologic processing are exempt from the personal delivery and direct supervision requirement, unless the laboratory that makes the referral does not perform the professional component of the service.

The term "anatomic pathology services" is defined to include histopathology or surgical pathology, cytopathology, hematology, subcellular pathology or molecular pathology, and blood-banking services performed by pathologists.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 10-16-138 as  
3 follows:

4 **10-16-138. Pathology services - direct billing required.** (1) A  
5 CLINICAL LABORATORY OR PHYSICIAN THAT IS LOCATED IN THIS STATE OR  
6 IN ANOTHER STATE, AND THAT PROVIDES ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES  
7 FOR PATIENTS IN THIS STATE, SHALL PRESENT OR CAUSE TO BE PRESENTED  
8 A CLAIM, BILL, OR DEMAND FOR PAYMENT FOR THESE SERVICES ONLY TO:

9 (a) THE PATIENT;

10 (b) THE RESPONSIBLE INSURANCE CARRIER OR OTHER THIRD-PARTY  
11 PAYER;

12 (c) THE HOSPITAL, PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC, OR NONPROFIT HEALTH  
13 CLINIC ORDERING SUCH SERVICES;

14 (d) THE REFERRING LABORATORY, EXCLUDING A LABORATORY OF  
15 A PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE OR GROUP PRACTICE THAT DOES NOT PERFORM THE  
16 PROFESSIONAL COMPONENT OF THE ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICE FOR  
17 WHICH SUCH CLAIM, BILL, OR DEMAND IS PRESENTED; OR

18 (e) A GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OR ITS SPECIFIED PUBLIC OR  
19 PRIVATE AGENT, AGENCY, OR ORGANIZATION ON BEHALF OF THE RECIPIENT

1 OF THE SERVICES.

2 (2) EXCEPT FOR A PHYSICIAN AT A REFERRING LABORATORY THAT  
3 HAS BEEN BILLED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION, NO  
4 LICENSED PRACTITIONER IN THE STATE MAY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY,  
5 CHARGE, BILL, OR OTHERWISE SOLICIT PAYMENT FOR ANATOMIC  
6 PATHOLOGY SERVICES UNLESS THE SERVICES WERE RENDERED  
7 PERSONALLY BY THE LICENSED PRACTITIONER OR UNDER THE LICENSED  
8 PRACTITIONER'S DIRECT SUPERVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 353  
9 OF THE "PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 263a.

10 (3) A PATIENT, INSURER, THIRD-PARTY PAYER, HOSPITAL, PUBLIC  
11 HEALTH CLINIC, OR NONPROFIT HEALTH CLINIC IS NOT REQUIRED TO  
12 REIMBURSE A LICENSED PRACTITIONER FOR CHARGES OR CLAIMS  
13 SUBMITTED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

14 (4) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION:

15 (a) MANDATES THE ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS FOR ANATOMIC  
16 PATHOLOGY SERVICES; OR

17 (b) PROHIBITS A GROUP PRACTICE, AS DEFINED IN 42 U.S.C. SEC.  
18 1395, FROM BILLING FOR ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES WHEN A  
19 PHYSICIAN MEMBER OF THE GROUP PRACTICE PERFORMS OR SUPERVISES  
20 ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES IN A LABORATORY THAT IS OWNED AND  
21 OPERATED BY THE GROUP PRACTICE.

22 (5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY  
23 SERVICES" MEANS:

24 (a) HISTOPATHOLOGY OR SURGICAL PATHOLOGY, MEANING THE  
25 GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION PERFORMED BY A PHYSICIAN OR  
26 UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICIAN, INCLUDING HISTOLOGIC  
27 PROCESSING;

1 (b) CYTOPATHOLOGY, MEANING THE MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION  
2 OF CELLS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- 3 (I) FLUIDS;
- 4 (II) ASPIRATES;
- 5 (III) WASHINGS;
- 6 (IV) BRUSHINGS; OR
- 7 (V) SMEARS, INCLUDING THE PAP TEST EXAMINATION PERFORMED  
8 BY A PHYSICIAN OR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICIAN;

9 (c) HEMATOLOGY, MEANING THE MICROSCOPIC EVALUATION OF  
10 BONE MARROW ASPIRATES AND BIOPSIES PERFORMED BY A PHYSICIAN, OR  
11 UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICIAN, AND PERIPHERAL BLOOD  
12 SMEARS WHEN THE ATTENDING OR TREATING PHYSICIAN OR  
13 TECHNOLOGIST REQUESTS THAT A BLOOD SMEAR BE REVIEWED BY A  
14 PATHOLOGIST;

15 (d) SUBCELLULAR PATHOLOGY OR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY,  
16 MEANING THE ASSESSMENT OF A PATIENT SPECIMEN FOR THE DETECTION,  
17 LOCALIZATION, MEASUREMENT, OR ANALYSIS OF ONE OR MORE PROTEIN  
18 OR NUCLEIC ACID TARGETS; AND

19 (e) BLOOD-BANKING SERVICES PERFORMED BY PATHOLOGISTS.

20 (6) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT BILLING OF A REFERRING  
21 LABORATORY FOR ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES IN INSTANCES WHERE  
22 A SAMPLE OR SAMPLES MUST BE SENT TO ANOTHER PHYSICIAN OR  
23 LABORATORY FOR CONSULTATION OR HISTOLOGIC PROCESSING. THE TERM  
24 "REFERRING LABORATORY" DOES NOT INCLUDE A LABORATORY OF A  
25 PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE OR GROUP PRACTICE THAT DOES NOT PERFORM THE  
26 PROFESSIONAL COMPONENT OF THE ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICE  
27 INVOLVED.

1 (7) A PERSON WHO RECEIVES A BILL FOR AN ANATOMIC  
2 PATHOLOGY SERVICE MADE IN KNOWING AND WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS  
3 SECTION MAY MAINTAIN AN ACTION TO RECOVER THE ACTUAL AMOUNT  
4 PAID FOR THE BILL.

5 [REDACTED]

6 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
7 takes effect January 1, 2013; except that, if a referendum petition is filed  
8 pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this  
9 act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period  
10 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,  
11 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
12 general election to be held in November 2012 and, in such case, will take  
13 effect on January 1, 2013, or on the date of the official declaration of the  
14 vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.