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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the practice of podiatry is defined to include the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the human foot.

This bill would expand the scope of the practice of podiatry to include the treatment of disorders of the foot and ankle.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to podiatry; to amend Section 34-24-230, Code of Alabama 1975; to expand the scope of the practice of podiatry to include treatment of disorders of the foot and ankle.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 34-24-230, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§34-24-230

For purposes of this title, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the respective meanings ascribed by this section:

(1) ANKLE. Consists of the ankle joint which consists of the distal third of the tibia and fibula and their



29 articulations with the talus and the soft tissue structures
30 surrounding the foot and ankle.

31 ~~(1)~~ (8) PODIATRY. The diagnosis and treatment of
32 disorders of the human foot and ankle, as described herein.

33 ~~(2)~~ (9) PRACTICE OF PODIATRY. The diagnosis and medical
34 or surgical or mechanical or manipulative or electrical
35 treatment of any ailment of the ~~human~~ foot or ankle ~~except~~
36 ~~such definition does not include the amputation of the foot or~~
37 ~~the administering of an anesthetic other than local~~ and the
38 surgical treatment of ailments of the human foot or ankle
39 limited anatomically to the foot or ankle. The practice of
40 podiatry shall include the amputation of the toes and other
41 parts of the foot and ankle, but shall not include any
42 amputation above the Chopart joint. A podiatrist may prescribe
43 drugs that relate specifically to the scope of practice
44 authorized herein.

45 (4) FOOT. The terminal appendage of the lower extremity
46 and contains 28 bones and is divided into three parts - the
47 forefoot, the midfoot, and the hindfoot. The forefoot consists
48 of 14 phalanges, five metatarsals, and the tibial and fibular
49 sesamoid bones. The midfoot consists of five tarsal bones and
50 their articulations. The hindfoot consists of two tarsal
51 bones, the calcaneus, and the talus. The foot is defined as
52 including all 28 complete bony structures below the ankle
53 joint.

54 (2) DIAGNOSIS. The process of ascertaining a disease or
55 ailment by its general symptoms.

56 ~~(4)~~ (7) MEDICAL TREATMENT. The application to or



57 prescription for the foot or ankle of pads, fiberglass,
58 adhesives, felt, plaster, or any medicinal agency for both
59 external and internal use in connection with treatment of
60 local ailments of the ~~human~~ foot or ankle, ~~except such~~
61 ~~definition.~~ The term does not include the medical treatment of
62 any systemic disease, but ~~does allow treating~~ includes
63 treatment for the local manifestations of those systemic
64 diseases in the foot or ankle.

65 ~~(5)~~ (10) SURGICAL TREATMENT. The use of any cutting
66 instrument to treat a disease, ailment, or condition of the
67 ~~human~~ foot or ankle ~~as defined herein, except that a~~
68 ~~podiatrist shall not be authorized to amputate the human foot,~~
69 ~~or perform any surgery on the human body at or above the ankle~~
70 ~~joint, or administer anesthetics other than local anesthetics.~~

71 (6) MECHANICAL TREATMENT. The application of any
72 mechanical appliance made of steel, leather, felt, or any
73 material to the foot or ankle or in the shoe for the purpose
74 of treating any disease, deformity, or ailment.

75 ~~(7)~~ (5) MANIPULATIVE TREATMENT. The use of the hand or
76 machinery in the operation or working upon the foot ~~and~~ or
77 ankle ~~its articulations~~.

78 ~~(8)~~ (3) ELECTRICAL TREATMENT. Any treatment by means and
79 methods supplied by electric current.

80 ~~(9)~~ ~~HUMAN FOOT. The terminal appendage of the lower~~
81 ~~extremity. It contains 26 bones and is divided into three~~
82 ~~parts - the forefoot, the midfoot, and the hindfoot. The~~
83 ~~forefoot consists of 14 phalanges and five metatarsals. The~~
84 ~~midfoot consists of five tarsal bones and their articulations.~~



85 ~~The hindfoot consists of two tarsal bones, the calcaneus and~~
86 ~~the talus. The foot is defined as including all 26 complete~~
87 ~~bony structures below the ankle joint, which ankle joint~~
88 ~~consists of the distal tibia and fibula and their~~
89 ~~articulations with the talus. The distal aspect of the tibia~~
90 ~~and fibula, the achilles tendon, and all structures above the~~
91 ~~dome of the talus reside within the leg."~~

92 Section 2. A podiatrist may not surgically treat
93 osseous ailments of the ankle unless he or she has completed
94 at least 36 months of post-graduate residency training
95 approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Educations of the
96 American Podiatric Medical Association.

97 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the first
98 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
99 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.