

1 SB56  
2 125620-4  
3 By Senator Ward  
4 RFD: Health  
5 First Read: 01-MAR-11

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, certain terms are defined for purposes of the statutes regulating the practice of podiatry in Alabama.

This bill would provide further for the definition of practice of podiatry to include the examination, diagnosis, and treatment including, but not limited to, the medical, mechanical, manipulation, surgical, and electrical treatment of the soft tissue and osseous structures of the foot, ankle, and ankle joint.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Section 34-24-230, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the practice of podiatry; to expand the scope of the practice of podiatry; to include the examination, diagnosis, and treatment including, but not limited to, the medical, mechanical, manipulation, surgical, and electrical

1 treatment of the soft tissue and osseous of the ankle and  
2 ankle joint.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

6 "§34-24-230.

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

9 "(1) PODIATRY. The diagnosis and treatment of  
10 disorders of the human foot and ankle by a podiatric  
11 physician, as described herein.

12 "(2) PRACTICE OF PODIATRY. The diagnosis and medical  
13 or surgical or mechanical or manipulative or electrical  
14 treatment of any ailment of the human foot ~~except such~~  
15 ~~definition does not include the amputation of the foot or the~~  
16 ~~administering of an anesthetic other than local~~ and ankle,  
17 including the soft tissue and osseous structures, including  
18 the 26 bones of the foot, the ankle joint, and the distal half  
19 of the tibia and fibula.

20 "(3) DIAGNOSIS. The process of ascertaining a  
21 disease or ailment by its general symptoms.

22 "(4) MEDICAL TREATMENT. The application to or  
23 prescription for the foot of pads, fiberglass, adhesives,  
24 felt, plaster or any medicinal agency for both external and  
25 internal use in connection with treatment of local ailments of  
26 the human foot or ankle, to the level necessary to treat the  
27 local condition, except such definition does not include the

1 medical treatment of any systemic disease, but does allow  
2 treating the local manifestations of those systemic diseases  
3 in the foot or ankle.

4 "(5) SURGICAL TREATMENT. The use of any cutting  
5 instrument to treat a disease, ailment, or condition of the  
6 human foot or ankle up to the midpoint of the tibia and fibula  
7 ~~as defined herein, except that a podiatrist shall not be~~  
8 ~~authorized to amputate the human foot, or perform any surgery~~  
9 ~~on the human body at or above the ankle joint, or administer~~  
10 ~~anesthetics other than local anesthetics.~~

11 "(6) MECHANICAL TREATMENT. The application of any  
12 mechanical appliance made of steel, leather, felt or any  
13 material to the foot or ankle or in the shoe for the purpose  
14 of treating any disease, deformity or ailment.

15 "(7) MANIPULATIVE TREATMENT. The use of the hand or  
16 machinery in the operation or working upon the foot and ~~its~~  
17 ~~articulations~~ ankle.

18 "(8) ELECTRICAL TREATMENT. Any treatment by means  
19 and methods supplied by electric current.

20 "(9) HUMAN FOOT OR ANKLE. The terminal appendage of  
21 the lower extremity. It contains 26 bones and is divided into  
22 three parts - the forefoot, the midfoot, and the hindfoot. The  
23 forefoot consists of 14 phalanges and five metatarsals. The  
24 midfoot consists of five tarsal bones and their articulations.  
25 The hindfoot consists of two tarsal bones, the calcaneus and  
26 the talus. The foot is defined as including all 26 complete  
27 boney structures below the ankle joint, which ankle joint

1 consists of the distal half of the tibia and fibula and their  
2 articulations with the talus. The distal ~~aspect~~ half of the  
3 tibia and fibula, the achilles tendon, ~~and~~ all structures  
4 above the dome of the talus ~~reside within the leg,~~ and all  
5 soft tissue in the distal half of the leg would all be  
6 considered to be part of the scope of practice."

7           Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
8 first day of the third month following its passage and  
9 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.