

1 SB340  
2 115860-4  
3 By Senator Denton  
4 RFD: Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry  
5 First Read: 02-FEB-10

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

11 This bill would provide further for the  
12 definition of practice of podiatry to include the  
13 examination, diagnosis, and treatment including,  
14 but not limited to, the medical, mechanical,  
15 manipulation, surgical, and electrical treatment of  
16 the soft tissue and osseous of the ankle and ankle  
17 joint.

18  
19 A BILL  
20 TO BE ENTITLED  
21 AN ACT  
22

23 To amend Section 34-24-230, Code of Alabama 1975,  
24 relating to the practice of podiatry; to expand the scope of  
25 the practice of podiatry; to include the examination,  
26 diagnosis, and treatment including, but not limited to, the  
27 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, as described herein.

11 "(2) PRACTICE OF PODIATRY. The diagnosis and medical  
12 or surgical or mechanical or manipulative or electrical  
13 treatment of any ailment of the human foot and ankle,  
14 including the soft tissue and osseous, except such definition  
15 does not include any of the following: ~~the amputation of the~~  
16 ~~foot or the administering of an anesthetic other than local.~~

17 "a. The amputation of the foot.

18 "b. Ankle fusion.

19 "c. Total ankle arthroplasty.

20 "d. Treatment of triamalleolar and pilon fracture.

21 "e. The administration of an anesthetic other than  
22 local.

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

25 "(4) MEDICAL TREATMENT. The application to or  
26 prescription for the foot of pads, adhesives, felt, plaster or  
27 any medicinal agency for both external and internal use in

1 connection with treatment of local ailments of the human foot  
2 or ankle, except such definition does not include the medical  
3 treatment of any systemic disease, but does allow treating the  
4 local manifestations of those systemic diseases in the foot or  
5 ankle.

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

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

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

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

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

1 ~~boney structures below the ankle joint, which ankle joint~~  
2 ~~consists of the distal tibia and fibula and their~~  
3 ~~articulations with the talus. The distal aspect of the tibia~~  
4 ~~and fibula, the achilles tendon, and all structures above the~~  
5 ~~dome of the talus reside within the leg."~~

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