

1 SB101  
2 209237-3  
3 By Senators Coleman-Madison, Gudger, McClendon and Beasley  
4 RFD: Healthcare  
5 First Read: 18-JAN-22

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 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.

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

3 "~~(3)~~ (1) DIAGNOSIS. The process of ascertaining a  
4 disease or ailment by its general symptoms.

5 "~~(8)~~ (2) ELECTRICAL TREATMENT. Any treatment by  
6 means and methods supplied by electric current.

7 "(3) FOOT and ANKLE. Includes the following:

8 "a. The foot means the terminal appendage of the  
9 lower extremity and contains 28 bones and is divided into  
10 three parts - the forefoot, the midfoot, and the hindfoot. The  
11 forefoot consists of 14 phalanges, five metatarsals, and the  
12 tibial and fibular sesamoid bones. The midfoot consists of  
13 five tarsal bones and their articulations. The hindfoot  
14 consists of two tarsal bones, the calcaneus, and the talus.  
15 The foot is defined as including all 28 complete bony  
16 structures below the ankle joint.

17 "b. The ankle consists of the ankle joint which  
18 consists of the distal third of the tibia and fibula and their  
19 articulations with the talus and the soft tissue structures  
20 surrounding the foot and ankle.

21 "~~(7)~~ (4) MANIPULATIVE TREATMENT. The use of the hand  
22 or machinery in the operation or working upon the foot and  
23 ankle ~~and its articulations.~~

24 "~~(6)~~ (5) MECHANICAL TREATMENT. The application of  
25 any mechanical appliance made of steel, leather, felt, or any  
26 material to the foot and ankle or in the shoe for the purpose  
27 of treating any disease, deformity, or ailment.

1           "~~(4)~~ (6) MEDICAL TREATMENT. The application to or  
2           prescription for the foot of pads, fiberglass, adhesives,  
3           felt, plaster, or any medicinal agency for both external and  
4           internal use in connection with treatment of local ailments of  
5           the human foot and ankle, except ~~such~~ the definition does not  
6           include the medical treatment of any systemic disease, but  
7           ~~does allow treating~~ includes treatment for the local  
8           manifestations of those systemic diseases in the foot and  
9           ankle.

10           "~~(1)~~ (7) PODIATRY. The diagnosis and treatment of  
11           disorders of the human foot and ankle ~~as described herein~~.

12           "~~(2)~~ (8) PRACTICE OF PODIATRY. The diagnosis and  
13           medical or surgical or mechanical or manipulative or  
14           electrical treatment of any ailment of the human foot and  
15           ankle ~~except such definition does not include the amputation~~  
16           ~~of the foot or the administering of an anesthetic other than~~  
17           ~~local.~~ and the surgical treatment of ailments of the human  
18           foot and ankle limited anatomically to the foot and ankle. The  
19           practice of podiatric medicine shall include the amputation of  
20           the toes and other parts of the foot and ankle, but shall not  
21           include the amputation of the leg in its entirety or any  
22           portion of the leg. A podiatric physician may prescribe drugs  
23           that relate specifically to the scope of practice authorized  
24           herein. Notwithstanding the definition of the practice of  
25           podiatry in this subdivision, a podiatric physician who  
26           surgically treats osseous ailments of the ankle shall have  
27           completed at least 36 months of post-graduate residency

1 training approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical  
2 Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

3 ~~"(9) HUMAN FOOT. The terminal appendage of the lower~~  
4 ~~extremity. It contains 26 bones and is divided into three~~  
5 ~~parts - the forefoot, the midfoot, and the hindfoot. The~~  
6 ~~forefoot consists of 14 phalanges and five metatarsals. The~~  
7 ~~midfoot consists of five tarsal bones and their articulations.~~  
8 ~~The hindfoot consists of two tarsal bones, the calcaneus and~~  
9 ~~the talus. The foot is defined as including all 26 complete~~  
10 ~~boney structures below the ankle joint, which ankle joint~~  
11 ~~consists of the distal tibia and fibula and their~~  
12 ~~articulations with the talus. The distal aspect of the tibia~~  
13 ~~and fibula, the achilles tendon, and all structures above the~~  
14 ~~dome of the talus reside within the leg.~~

15 ~~"(5) (9) SURGICAL TREATMENT. The use of any cutting~~  
16 ~~instrument to treat a disease, ailment, or condition of the~~  
17 ~~human foot and ankle as defined herein, except that a~~  
18 ~~podiatrist shall not be authorized to amputate the human foot,~~  
19 ~~or perform any surgery on the human body at or above the ankle~~  
20 ~~joint, or administer anesthetics other than local~~  
21 ~~anesthetics."~~

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