

1 HB310
2 198033-2
3 By Representative Johnson
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 02-APR-19

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the practice of podiatry
9 is defined to include the diagnosis and treatment
10 of disorders of the human foot.

11 This bill would expand the scope of the
12 practice of podiatry to include treatment of
13 disorders of the foot, ankle, and lower leg.

14
15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT

18
19 Relating to podiatry; to amend Section 34-24-230,
20 Code of Alabama 1975; to expand the scope of the practice of
21 podiatry to include treatment of disorders of the foot, ankle,
22 and lower leg.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

26 "§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, ANKLE, and LOWER LEG. Includes the
8 following:

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

18 "b. The ankle consists of the ankle joint which
19 consists of the distal third of the tibia and fibula and their
20 articulations with the talus.

21 "c. The lower leg consists of the tibia and fibula,
22 the Achilles tendon, and all structures above the dome of the
23 talus and all soft tissue along the tibia and fibula, all of
24 which would be considered to be part of the scope of practice.

25 "~~(7)~~ (4) MANIPULATIVE TREATMENT. The use of the hand
26 or machinery in the operation or working upon the foot, ankle,
27 and lower leg and its articulations.

1 "~~(6)~~ (5) MECHANICAL TREATMENT. The application of
2 any mechanical appliance made of steel, leather, felt, or any
3 material to the foot, ankle, or lower leg or in the shoe for
4 the purpose of treating any disease, deformity, or ailment.

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

15 "~~(1)~~ (7) PODIATRY. The diagnosis and treatment of
16 disorders of the human foot, ankle, and lower leg ~~as described~~
17 ~~herein.~~

18 "~~(2)~~ (8) PRACTICE OF PODIATRY. The diagnosis and
19 medical or surgical or mechanical or manipulative or
20 electrical treatment of any ailment of the human foot, ankle,
21 and lower leg ~~except such definition does not include the~~
22 ~~amputation of the foot or the administering of an anesthetic~~
23 ~~other than local.~~ The surgical treatment of ailments of the
24 human foot, ankle, and lower leg shall be limited anatomically
25 to that part below the anterior tibial tubercle. The practice
26 of podiatric medicine shall include the amputation of the toes
27 or other parts of the foot, but shall not include the

1 amputation of the leg in its entirety or any portion of the
2 leg. A podiatric physician may prescribe drugs that relate
3 specifically to the scope of practice authorized herein.

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

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

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