

1 HB448
2 173354-4
3 By Representative Williams (JD)
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 17-MAR-16

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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 structures of the foot,
17 ankle, and ankle 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 structures of the
2 ankle and 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 28 bones of the foot, the ankle joint, and the distal
19 third 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 the distal third of the tibia and
7 fibula ~~as defined herein, except that a podiatrist shall not~~
8 ~~be authorized to amputate the human foot, or perform any~~
9 ~~surgery on the human body at or above the ankle joint, or~~
10 ~~administer 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~~ 28 bones and is divided
22 into three parts - the forefoot, the midfoot, and the
23 hindfoot. The forefoot consists of 14 phalanges, and five
24 metatarsals, and the tibial and fibular sesmoid bones. 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~~ 28 complete

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

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