

By Senator Bennett

21-02653A-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to podiatrists; amending s. 461.003, F.S.;  
3 redefining the term "practice of podiatric medicine";  
4 creating s. 461.0145, F.S.; prohibiting a licensed  
5 podiatrist from performing ankle surgery unless the  
6 podiatrist meets certain requirements for education and  
7 training; providing a period during which a licensed  
8 podiatrist must meet the eligibility requirements in order  
9 to perform ankle surgery; providing accreditation  
10 requirements for the hospital or surgical center at which  
11 ankle surgery is performed; authorizing a podiatrist to  
12 perform nonsurgical care; prohibiting a podiatrist from  
13 performing surgery on certain fractures; providing an  
14 effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 461.003, Florida  
19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20 461.003 Definitions.--As used in this chapter:

21 (5) "Practice of podiatric medicine" means the diagnosis or  
22 medical, surgical, palliative, and mechanical treatment of  
23 ailments of the human foot and leg, ~~The surgical treatment of~~  
24 ~~ailments of the human foot and leg shall be limited anatomically~~  
25 to that part below the anterior tibial tubercle. The practice of  
26 podiatric medicine includes ~~shall include~~ the amputation of the  
27 toes or other parts of the foot but does ~~shall~~ not include the  
28 amputation of the foot or leg in its entirety. A podiatric

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29 physician may prescribe drugs that relate specifically to the  
30 scope of practice authorized herein.

31 Section 2. Section 461.0145, Florida Statutes, is created  
32 to read:

33 461.0145 Surgery.--

34 (1) A licensed podiatrist may not perform ankle surgery  
35 unless the podiatrist meets one of the following requirements:

36 (a) The licensed podiatrist was credentialed to perform  
37 ankle surgery by a hospital or ambulatory surgical treatment  
38 center accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of  
39 Health Care Organizations on or before October 2, 1995. Such  
40 podiatrist shall:

41 1. Notify the board as to the hospital or ambulatory  
42 surgical treatment center at which he or she was credentialed to  
43 perform ankle surgery on or before October 2, 1995;

44 2. Obtain and maintain evidence of obtaining at least 10  
45 hours of approved continuing education related to ankle surgery  
46 annually; and

47 3. Comply with any other requirements established by the  
48 board to ensure continued proficiency in performing ankle  
49 surgery; or

50 (b) The licensed podiatrist has completed a surgical  
51 residency program of at least 36 months in length which has been  
52 approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education and is  
53 currently eligible for certification to perform reconstructive  
54 rearfoot or ankle surgery by the American Board of Podiatric  
55 Surgery. A podiatrist who qualifies to perform ankle surgery  
56 under this paragraph shall obtain certification to perform  
57 reconstructive rearfoot or ankle surgery from the American Board

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58 of Podiatric Surgery by July 1, 2014, or within 6 years after  
59 first becoming eligible for certification, whichever date is  
60 later. A licensed podiatrist may not continue to perform ankle  
61 surgery if he or she has not obtained certification by the end of  
62 the 6-year period.

63 (2) A licensed podiatrist may perform ankle surgery only in  
64 a hospital or ambulatory surgical treatment center that is  
65 accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health  
66 Care Organizations at which the podiatrist has surgical  
67 privileges to perform ankle surgery. A podiatrist who performs  
68 ankle surgery in an ambulatory surgical treatment center must  
69 first have surgical privileges to perform ankle surgery at a  
70 local hospital. A licensed podiatrist who performs ankle surgery  
71 must meet the same standard of care applicable to an orthopedic  
72 surgeon who performs ankle surgery.

73 (3) A licensed podiatrist may perform nonsurgical care  
74 without meeting the requirements of subsection (1). A licensed  
75 podiatrist may also perform Achilles tendon repair, subject to  
76 subsection (1), but may not perform surgery on Pilon fractures or  
77 tibial fractures that do not enter the ankle joint.

78 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.