

HOUSE No. 2044

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to the registration of podiatrists..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 13 and inserting in place thereof the following
3 new section:-

4 Section 13. Podiatry as used in this chapter shall mean the diagnosis and treatment of the
5 structures of the human foot and ankle by medical, mechanical, surgical, manipulative and
6 electrical means, including, but not limited to, the treatment of the local manifestation of
7 systemic conditions as they present in the foot and ankle, partial amputation of the foot, and
8 tendon surgery in the foot and ankle, including the Achilles tendon. The practice of podiatry
9 shall not include the administration of a general anesthetic or amputation of the entire foot.
10 Ankle surgery involving bone, including, but not limited to the fibula and tibia, must be
11 performed in a hospital or surgical center and requires credentialing by that facility and shall
12 require either (a) board certification approved by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery
13 (ABPS); or (b) board certification as deemed appropriate by the Massachusetts Board of
14 Registration in Podiatry; or (c) supervision of a Podiatric physician (D.P.M.) who is board

15 certified by the ABPS who has ankle privileges, until competency is established to achieve
16 credentialing by the facility; or (d) supervision of a board certified Allopathic (M.D.) or
17 Osteopathic (D.O.) physician who has ankle privileges, until competency is established to
18 achieve credentialing by the facility.

19 Nothing in this act should preclude registered podiatrists, who have board certification in
20 foot surgery, from performing procedures for which they have been credentialed by a hospital or
21 surgical center to perform prior to December 31st, 2007.

22 This section and sections fourteen to twenty-two, inclusive, shall not apply to surgeons of
23 the United States Army, Navy or the United States Public Health Service, nor to physicians
24 registered in the commonwealth. The term physician and surgeon when used in sections twelve
25 B, twelve G, twenty-three N, and eighty B shall include a podiatrist acting within the limitation
26 imposed by this section.