

**Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure  
2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) Bill Summary**

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**BILL NUMBER:** H459

**TITLE:** An Act enhancing podiatric profession’s registration and oversight

**SPONSOR(S):** Rogers, John H.

**HEARING DATE:** June 2, 2025

**REPORTING DEADLINE:** August 1, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY**

(2021-2022): H2396 – Accompanied a study order, see H5035.

(2023-2024): H2262 – Accompanied a study order, see H4680.

**CURRENT LAW**

Sections 12A through 12C of Chapter 13 of the Massachusetts General Laws establish and govern the five-member Board of Registration in Podiatry appointed by the Governor. Three members must be podiatrists with at least seven years of practice in the Commonwealth, one a registered physician with similar experience, and one a public representative. Board members may not be affiliated with podiatry schools or have financial interests in podiatry-related businesses. The Board shall meet annually in October, and at 6 other times as determined, and members shall serve without compensation.

Sections 13 through 23 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws govern the practice of podiatry. Section 17A of said chapter requires the keeping of proceedings records and the registry of persons registered by the Board. Such documents shall be open to public inspection. Further, the Board shall make rules for its proper conduct, produce an annual report, and investigate complaints.

Sections 5 and 5A through 5M of Chapter 112 govern the investigation of complaints, violations, license restrictions, communications with professional organizations, impairments, and investment restrictions related to the practice of medicine.

**SUMMARY**

This legislation seeks to locate the Board of Registration in Podiatry within the Board of Registration of Medicine. The Board of Registration in Medicine, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, may review and approve the rules and regulations proposed by the Podiatry Board; and such regulations will be approved unless disapproved in writing within 90 days of submission.

The Podiatry Board shall also develop regulations with the Board of Registration in Medicine to ensure that podiatrists are subject to requirements commensurate with those of which physicians are subject to under the Board of Registration in Medicine.