



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 651**

**Public Act No. 06-160**

**AN ACT CONCERNING PODIATRIC MEDICINE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 20-54 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

(a) No person other than those described in section 20-57 and those to whom a license has been reissued as provided by section 20-59 shall engage in the practice of podiatry in this state until [he] such person has presented to the department satisfactory evidence that [he] such person has had a high school education or its equivalent, has received a diploma or other certificate of graduation from an accredited school or college of chiropody or podiatry approved by the Board of Examiners in Podiatry with the consent of the Commissioner of Public Health nor shall any person so practice until [he] such person has obtained a license from the Department of Public Health after meeting the requirements of this chapter. A graduate of an approved school of chiropody or podiatry subsequent to July 1, 1947, shall present satisfactory evidence that he or she has been a resident student through not less than four graded courses of not less than thirty-two weeks each in such approved school and has received the degree of D.S.C., Doctor of Surgical Chiropody, or Pod. D., Doctor of Podiatry, or other equivalent degree; and, if a graduate of an approved

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 651***

chiropractic or podiatry school subsequent to July 1, 1951, that he or she has completed, before beginning the study of podiatry, a course of study of an academic year of not less than thirty-two weeks' duration in a college or scientific school approved by said board with the consent of the Commissioner of Public Health, which course included the study of chemistry and physics or biology; and if a graduate of an approved college of podiatry or podiatric medicine subsequent to July 1, 1971, that he or she has completed a course of study of two such prepodiatry college years, including the study of chemistry, physics or mathematics and biology, and that he or she received the degree of D.P.M., Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. No provision of this section shall be construed to prevent graduates of a podiatric college, approved by the Board of Examiners in Podiatry with the consent of the Commissioner of Public Health, from receiving practical training in podiatry in a residency program in an accredited hospital facility which program is accredited by the Council on Podiatric Education.

(b) A licensed podiatrist who is board qualified or certified by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery or the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine may engage in the medical and nonsurgical treatment of the ankle and the anatomical structures of the ankle, as well as the administration and prescription of drugs incidental thereto, and the nonsurgical treatment of manifestations of systemic diseases as they appear on the ankle. Such licensed podiatrist shall restrict treatment of displaced ankle fractures to the initial diagnosis and the initial attempt at closed reduction at the time of presentation and shall not treat tibial pilon fractures. For purposes of this subsection, "ankle" means the distal metaphysis and epiphysis of the tibia and fibula, the articular cartilage of the distal tibia and distal fibula, the ligaments that connect the distal metaphysis and epiphysis of the tibia and fibula and the talus, and the portions of skin, subcutaneous tissue, fascia, muscles, tendons and nerves at or below the level of the myotendinous junction of the triceps surae.

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 651***

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall convene a panel comprised of the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, a qualified arbitrator selected and retained by the commissioner and two representatives each from the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association and the Connecticut Orthopedic Society, to develop a protocol and recommendations for permitting qualified practitioners of podiatric medicine, as described in subsection (b) of section 20-54 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to perform surgery on the ankle, as defined in subsection (b) of said section 20-54. The arbitrator shall direct and advise the panel in its deliberations. The cost of the arbitrator shall be distributed equally among the representatives from the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association and the Connecticut Orthopedic Society. The commissioner shall report the panel's findings and recommendations on or before January 1, 2007, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Approved June 6, 2006