

March 20, 2013

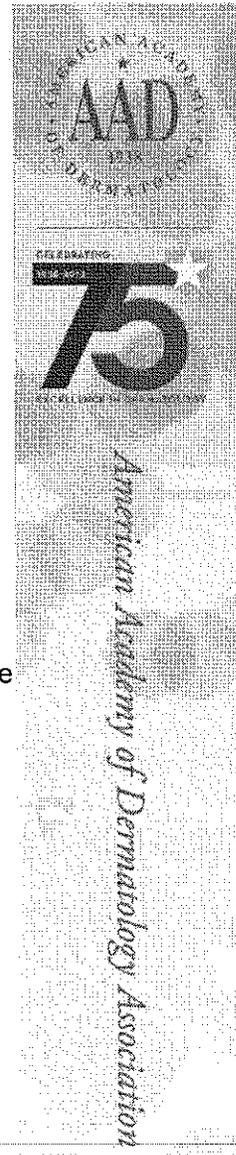
The Honorable Terry B. Gerratana
The Honorable Susana M. Johnson
Co-Chairs, Public Health Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: AMEND SB 1038

Dear Co-Chairs Gerratana and Johnson:

On behalf of the 12,600 U.S. members of the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA), I am writing to seek a friendly amendment to SB 1038, which would define "surgery" in statute. This language mirrors policy of the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons. Both organizations have worked diligently with many medical and surgical specialties to derive a definition that is inclusive and useful relative to the historic and present practice of surgery. The establishment of a precise definition of surgery in statute would provide clarity and transparency that is indispensable to any activity that impacts the citizens of Connecticut. Our proposed language is below in bolded red text.

No person shall, for compensation, gain or reward, received or expected, diagnose, treat, operate for or prescribe for any injury, deformity, ailment or disease, actual or imaginary, of another person, nor practice surgery, until [he] such person has obtained such a license as provided in section 20-10, and then only in the kind or branch of practice stated in such license. For purposes of this section, "surgery" means the structural alteration of the human body by an incision or destruction of tissue for the purpose of diagnostic or therapeutic treatment of conditions or disease using any instrument causing localized alteration or transposition of live human tissue which include lasers, ultrasound, ionizing radiation, scalpels, probes, and needles. ~~but does not include procedures for the removal of superficial foreign bodies from the human body, punctures, injections, dry needling, acupuncture, the removal of dead tissue or the scraping or brushing of live tissue where such removal, scraping or brushing is accomplished without an incision causing localized alteration or transposition of live human tissue.~~ The tissue can be cut, burned, vaporized, frozen, sutured, probed, or manipulated by closed reductions for major dislocations or fractures, or otherwise altered by mechanical, thermal, light-based, electromagnetic, or chemical means. Injection of diagnostic or therapeutic substances into body cavities, internal organs, joints, sensory organs, and the central nervous system also is considered to be surgery (this does not include the administration by nursing personnel of some injections, subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intravenous, when ordered by a physician). All of these surgical procedures are invasive, including those that are performed with lasers, and the risks of any surgical procedure are not



1445 New York Ave., NW,
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-2134

Main: 202.842.3555
Fax: 202.842.4366
Website: www.aad.org

Dirk M. Elston, MD, FAAD
President

Brett M. Coidiron, MD, FAAD
President-Elect

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Vice President

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eliminated by using a light knife or laser in place of a metal knife, or scalpel. Patient safety and quality of care are paramount and, therefore, patients should be assured that individuals who perform these types of surgery are licensed physicians (defined as doctors of medicine or osteopathy) who meet appropriate professional standards.

I urge you and your colleagues to include in SB 1038 language that has the support of the medical community. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on this important issue. For further information, please contact Lisa Albany, assistant director of state policy for the AADA, at LAlbany@aad.org or (202) 712-2615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dirk Elston".

Dirk M. Elston, MD, FAAD
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association

