



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

***Raised Bill No. 306***

LCO No. 1158



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF PODIATRISTS TO PERFORM STANDARD ANKLE SURGICAL PROCEDURES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-54 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

3 (a) No person other than those described in section 20-57 and those  
4 to whom a license has been reissued as provided by section 20-59 shall  
5 engage in the practice of podiatry in this state until such person has  
6 presented to the department satisfactory evidence that such person has  
7 received a diploma or other certificate of graduation from an  
8 accredited school or college of chiropody or podiatry approved by the  
9 Connecticut Board of Examiners in Podiatry with the consent of the  
10 Commissioner of Public Health, nor shall any person so practice until  
11 such person has obtained a license from the Department of Public  
12 Health after meeting the requirements of this chapter. A graduate of an  
13 approved school of chiropody or podiatry subsequent to July 1, 1947,  
14 shall present satisfactory evidence that he or she has been a resident  
15 student through not less than four graded courses of not less than

16 thirty-two weeks each in such approved school and has received the  
17 degree of D.S.C., Doctor of Surgical Chiropody, or Pod. D., Doctor of  
18 Podiatry, or other equivalent degree; and, if a graduate of an approved  
19 chiropody or podiatry school subsequent to July 1, 1951, that he or she  
20 has completed, before beginning the study of podiatry, a course of  
21 study of an academic year of not less than thirty-two weeks' duration  
22 in a college or scientific school approved by said board with the  
23 consent of the Commissioner of Public Health, which course included  
24 the study of chemistry and physics or biology; and if a graduate of an  
25 approved college of podiatry or podiatric medicine subsequent to July  
26 1, 1971, that he or she has completed a course of study of two such  
27 prepodiatry college years, including the study of chemistry, physics or  
28 mathematics and biology, and that he or she received the degree of  
29 D.P.M., Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. No provision of this section shall  
30 be construed to prevent graduates of a podiatric college, approved by  
31 the Board of Examiners in Podiatry with the consent of the  
32 Commissioner of Public Health, from receiving practical training in  
33 podiatry in a residency program in an accredited hospital facility  
34 which program is accredited by the Council on Podiatric Education.

35 (b) A licensed podiatrist who is board qualified or certified by the  
36 American Board of Podiatric Surgery or the American Board of  
37 Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine may engage in  
38 the medical and nonsurgical treatment of the ankle and the anatomical  
39 structures of the ankle, as well as the administration and prescription  
40 of drugs incidental thereto, and the nonsurgical treatment of  
41 manifestations of systemic diseases as they appear on the ankle. Such  
42 licensed podiatrist shall restrict treatment of displaced ankle fractures  
43 to the initial diagnosis and the initial attempt at closed reduction at the  
44 time of presentation and shall not treat tibial pilon fractures. For  
45 purposes of this section, "ankle" means the distal metaphysis and  
46 epiphysis of the tibia and fibula, the articular cartilage of the distal  
47 tibia and distal fibula, the ligaments that connect the distal metaphysis  
48 and epiphysis of the tibia and fibula and the talus, and the portions of  
49 skin, subcutaneous tissue, fascia, muscles, tendons and nerves at or

50 below the level of the myotendinous junction of the triceps surae.

51 (c) No licensed podiatrist may independently engage in the surgical  
52 treatment of the ankle, including the surgical treatment of the  
53 anatomical structures of the ankle, as well as the administration and  
54 prescription of drugs incidental thereto, and the surgical treatment of  
55 manifestations of systemic diseases as they appear on the ankle, until  
56 such licensed podiatrist has obtained a permit from the Department of  
57 Public Health after meeting the requirements set forth in subsection (d)  
58 or (e) of this section, as appropriate. No licensed podiatrist who  
59 applies for a permit to independently engage in the surgical treatment  
60 of the ankle shall be issued such permit unless (1) the commissioner is  
61 satisfied that the applicant is in compliance with all requirements set  
62 forth in subsection (d) or (e) of this section, as appropriate, and (2) the  
63 application includes payment of a fee in the amount of one hundred  
64 dollars. For purposes of this section, "surgical treatment of the ankle"  
65 does not include the performance of total ankle replacements or the  
66 treatment of tibial pilon fractures.

67 (d) The Department of Public Health may issue a permit to  
68 independently engage in standard ankle surgery procedures to any  
69 licensed podiatrist who: (1) (A) Graduated on or after June 1, 2006,  
70 from a three-year residency program in podiatric medicine and  
71 surgery that was accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical  
72 Education, or its successor organization, at the time of graduation, and  
73 (B) holds and maintains current board certification in reconstructive  
74 rearfoot ankle surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery, or  
75 its successor organization; (2) (A) graduated on or after June 1, 2006,  
76 from a three-year residency program in podiatric medicine and  
77 surgery that was accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical  
78 Education, or its successor organization, at the time of graduation, (B)  
79 is board qualified, but not board certified, in reconstructive rearfoot  
80 ankle surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery, or its  
81 successor organization, and (C) provides documentation satisfactory to  
82 the department that such licensed podiatrist has completed acceptable  
83 training and experience in standard or advanced midfoot, rearfoot and

84 ankle procedures; or (3) (A) graduated before June 1, 2006, from a  
85 residency program in podiatric medicine and surgery that was at least  
86 two years in length and was accredited by the Council on Podiatric  
87 Medical Education at the time of graduation, (B) holds and maintains  
88 current board certification in reconstructive rearfoot ankle surgery by  
89 the American Board of Podiatric Surgery, or its successor organization,  
90 and (C) provides documentation satisfactory to the department that  
91 such licensed podiatrist has completed acceptable training and  
92 experience in standard or advanced midfoot, rearfoot and ankle  
93 procedures. For purposes of this subsection, "standard ankle surgery  
94 procedures" includes soft tissue and osseous procedures.

95 (e) The Department of Public Health may issue a permit to  
96 independently engage in advanced ankle surgery procedures to any  
97 licensed podiatrist who has obtained a permit under subsection (d) of  
98 this section, or who meets the qualifications necessary to obtain a  
99 permit under said subsection (d), provided such licensed podiatrist: (1)  
100 (A) Graduated on or after June 1, 2006, from a three-year residency  
101 program in podiatric medicine and surgery that was accredited by the  
102 Council on Podiatric Medical Education, or its successor organization,  
103 at the time of graduation, (B) holds and maintains current board  
104 qualification in reconstructive rearfoot ankle surgery by the American  
105 Board of Podiatric Surgery, or its successor organization, and (C)  
106 provides documentation satisfactory to the department that such  
107 licensed podiatrist has completed acceptable training and experience  
108 in advanced midfoot, rearfoot and ankle procedures; or (2) (A)  
109 graduated before June 1, 2006, from a residency program in podiatric  
110 medicine and surgery that was at least two years in duration and was  
111 accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education at the time  
112 of graduation, (B) holds and maintains current board certification in  
113 reconstructive rearfoot ankle surgery by the American Board of  
114 Podiatric Surgery, or its successor organization, and (C) provides  
115 documentation satisfactory to the department that such licensed  
116 podiatrist has completed acceptable training and experience in  
117 advanced midfoot, rearfoot and ankle procedures. For purposes of this

118 subsection, "advanced ankle surgery procedures" includes ankle  
119 fracture fixation, ankle fusion, ankle arthroscopy, insertion or removal  
120 of external fixation pins into or from the tibial diaphysis at or below  
121 the level of the myotendinous junction of the triceps surae, and  
122 insertion and removal of retrograde tibiototalcalcaneal intramedullary  
123 rods and locking screws up to the level of the myotendinous junction  
124 of the triceps surae, but does not include the surgical treatment of  
125 complications within the tibial diaphysis related to the use of such  
126 external fixation pins.

127 (f) A licensed podiatrist who (1) graduated from a residency  
128 program in podiatric medicine and surgery that was at least two years  
129 in duration and was accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical  
130 Education, or its successor organization, at the time of graduation, and  
131 (2) (A) holds and maintains current board certification in  
132 reconstructive rearfoot ankle surgery by the American Board of  
133 Podiatric Surgery, or its successor organization, (B) is board qualified  
134 in reconstructive rearfoot ankle surgery by the American Board of  
135 Podiatric Surgery, or its successor organization, or (C) is board  
136 certified in foot and ankle surgery by the American Board of Podiatric  
137 Surgery, or its successor organization, may engage in the surgical  
138 treatment of the ankle, including standard and advanced ankle surgery  
139 procedures, without a permit issued by the department in accordance  
140 with subsection (d) or (e) of this section, provided such licensed  
141 podiatrist is performing such procedures under the direct supervision  
142 of a physician or surgeon licensed under chapter 370 who maintains  
143 hospital privileges to perform such procedures or under the direct  
144 supervision of a licensed podiatrist who has been issued a permit  
145 under the provisions of subsection (d) or (e) of this section, as  
146 appropriate, to independently engage in standard or advanced ankle  
147 surgery procedures.

148 (g) The [Commissioner of Public Health shall appoint an advisory  
149 committee to] Connecticut Board of Examiners in Podiatry shall assist  
150 and advise the [commissioner] Commissioner of Public Health in  
151 evaluating applicants' training and experience in midfoot, rearfoot and

152 ankle procedures for purposes of determining whether such applicants  
153 should be permitted to independently engage in standard or advanced  
154 ankle surgery procedures pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) of this  
155 section. [The advisory committee shall consist of four members, two of  
156 whom shall be podiatrists recommended by the Connecticut Podiatric  
157 Medical Association and two of whom shall be orthopedic surgeons  
158 recommended by the Connecticut Orthopedic Society.]

159 (h) Not later than July 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Public Health  
160 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement  
161 the provisions of subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this section. Such  
162 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the number and types  
163 of procedures required for an applicant's training or experience to be  
164 deemed acceptable for purposes of issuing a permit under subsection  
165 (d) or (e) of this section. In identifying the required number and types  
166 of procedures, the commissioner shall seek the advice and assistance of  
167 the [advisory committee appointed under subsection (g) of this  
168 section] Connecticut Board of Examiners in Podiatry and shall consider  
169 nationally recognized standards for accredited residency programs in  
170 podiatric medicine and surgery for midfoot, rearfoot and ankle  
171 procedures. The commissioner may issue permits pursuant to  
172 subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section prior to the effective date  
173 of any regulations adopted pursuant to this section.

174 (i) The Department of Public Health's issuance of a permit to a  
175 licensed podiatrist to independently engage in the surgical treatment  
176 of the ankle shall not be construed to obligate a hospital or outpatient  
177 surgical facility to grant such licensed podiatrist privileges to perform  
178 such procedures at the hospital or outpatient surgical facility.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	20-54

***Statement of Purpose:***

To permit the Connecticut Board of Examiners in Podiatry to approve podiatrists to perform standard ankle surgical procedures.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*