

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2196**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Lowenthal**

February 20, 2002

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An act to amend Sections 2054 and 2474 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to podiatry.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2196, as introduced, Lowenthal. Podiatrists.

Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, makes it a misdemeanor for a person who is not licensed as a physician and surgeon to use certain words, letters, and phrases or any other terms that imply that he or she is authorized to practice medicine as a physician and surgeon. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor for a person who is not licensed to practice podiatric medicine to use certain words, letters, and phrases or any other terms that imply that he or she is a podiatrist.

This bill would specify that a person who is licensed to practice podiatric medicine may use the phrase “doctor of podiatric medicine” and the initials “D.P.M.,” and the person would not be in violation of the act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2054 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 2054. (a) Any person who uses in any sign, business card, or
- 4 letterhead, or, in an advertisement, the words “doctor” or

1 “physician,” the letters or prefix “Dr.,” the initials “M.D.,” or  
2 any other terms or letters indicating or implying that he or she is  
3 a physician and surgeon, physician, surgeon, or practitioner under  
4 the terms of this or any other law, or that he or she is entitled to  
5 practice hereunder, or who represents or holds himself or herself  
6 out as a physician and surgeon, physician, surgeon, or practitioner  
7 under the terms of this or any other law, without having at the time  
8 of so doing a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended certificate as a  
9 physician and surgeon under this chapter, is guilty of a  
10 misdemeanor.

11 *(b) A holder of a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended certificate*  
12 *to practice podiatric medicine may use the complete phrase*  
13 *‘doctor of podiatric medicine’ or the initials ‘D.P.M.,’ and shall*  
14 *not be in violation of subdivision (a).*

15 SEC. 2. Section 2474 of the Business and Professions Code  
16 is amended to read:

17 2474. Any person who uses in any sign or in any  
18 advertisement or otherwise, the word or words “*doctor of*  
19 *podiatric medicine,*” “*D.P.M.,*” “*podiatrist,*” “*foot specialist,*”  
20 or any other term or terms or any letters indicating or implying that  
21 he or she is a podiatrist, or that he or she practices podiatric  
22 medicine, or holds himself out as practicing podiatric medicine or  
23 foot correction as defined in Section 2472, without having at the  
24 time of so doing a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended certificate  
25 as provided for in this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

