

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 15, 2004

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 8, 2004

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2004

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 15, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 932**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Koretz**  
**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Correa)**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Benoit, Corbett,*  
*Shirley Horton, Pavley, Vargas, and Wyland)*

February 20, 2003

---

---

An act to amend Sections 2472 and 2484 of, and to repeal and add Section 2493 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to podiatric medicine.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 932, as amended, Koretz. Podiatric medicine.

Existing law provides for the certification and regulation of the practice of podiatry by the Division of Licensing of the Medical Board of California and the California Board of Podiatric Medicine in the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law requires an applicant for a certificate to practice podiatric medicine to show that he or she has successfully completed a specified medical curriculum, and requires an applicant pass an examination in certain subjects.

This bill would instead require an applicant to pass an examination in the subjects required in the podiatric medicine medical curriculum.

The bill would also require an applicant to obtain a specified passing score on the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Part III examination. The bill would require the board, in consultation with the Office of Examination Resources of the Department of Consumer Affairs, to ensure that the Part II examination adequately evaluates the full scope of practice for podiatric medicine.

Existing law authorizes the holder of a certificate to practice podiatric medicine to treat the human foot, including the ankle and tendons at the ankle level. Existing law prohibits a doctor of podiatric medicine from performing an amputation. Existing law authorizes a doctor of podiatric medicine that was certified on and after January 1, 1984, to perform surgery of the ankle and tendons in specified locations.

This bill would delete the prohibition against performing amputations but would prohibit a doctor of podiatric medicine from performing an amputation of the foot in its entirety. The bill would authorize an ankle certified doctor of podiatric medicine to perform surgical treatment that is otherwise beyond his or her scope of practice in specified locations, if the doctor of podiatric medicine is under the direct supervision of a physician and surgeon. The bill would also add outpatient settings meeting certain criteria to the list of locations where surgery may be performed. The bill would make other conforming changes.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2472 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 2472. (a) The certificate to practice podiatric medicine
- 4 authorizes the holder to practice podiatric medicine.
- 5 (b) As used in this chapter, “podiatric medicine” means the
- 6 diagnosis, medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, and
- 7 electrical treatment of the human foot, including the ankle and
- 8 tendons that insert into the foot and the nonsurgical treatment of
- 9 the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the functions of the
- 10 foot.
- 11 (c) A doctor of podiatric medicine may not administer an
- 12 anesthetic other than local. If an anesthetic other than local is
- 13 required for any procedure, the anesthetic shall be administered by



1 another health care practitioner licensed under this division, who  
2 is authorized to administer the required anesthetic within the scope  
3 of his or her practice.

4 (d) (1) A doctor of podiatric medicine who is ankle certified  
5 by the board on and after January 1, 1984, may do the following:

6 (A) Perform surgical treatment of the ankle and tendons at the  
7 level of the ankle pursuant to subdivision (e).

8 (B) Perform services under the direct supervision of a  
9 physician and surgeon, as an assistant at surgery, in surgical  
10 procedures that are otherwise beyond the scope of practice of a  
11 doctor of podiatric medicine.

12 (C) Perform a partial amputation of the foot no further  
13 proximal than the Chopart's joint.

14 (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit a  
15 doctor of podiatric medicine to function as a primary surgeon for  
16 any procedure beyond his or her scope of practice.

17 (e) A doctor of podiatric medicine may perform surgical  
18 treatment of the ankle and tendons at the level of the ankle only in  
19 the following locations:

20 (1) A licensed general acute care hospital, as defined in Section  
21 1250 of the Health and Safety Code.

22 (2) A licensed surgical clinic, as defined in Section 1204 of the  
23 Health and Safety Code, if the doctor of podiatric medicine has  
24 surgical privileges, including the privilege to perform surgery on  
25 the ankle, in a general acute care hospital described in  
26 subparagraph (1) and meets all the protocols of the surgical clinic.

27 (3) An ambulatory surgical center that is certified to participate  
28 in the Medicare program under Title XVIII (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395  
29 et seq.) of the federal Social Security Act, if the doctor of podiatric  
30 medicine has surgical privileges, including the privilege to  
31 perform surgery on the ankle, in a general acute care hospital  
32 described in subparagraph (1) and meets all the protocols of the  
33 surgical center.

34 (4) A freestanding physical plant housing outpatient services of  
35 a licensed general acute care hospital, as defined in Section 1250  
36 of the Health and Safety Code, if the doctor of podiatric medicine  
37 has surgical privileges, including the privilege to perform surgery  
38 on the ankle, in a general acute care hospital described in  
39 paragraph (1). For purposes of this section, a "freestanding



1 physical plant” means any building that is not physically attached  
2 to a building where inpatient services are provided.

3 (5) An outpatient setting accredited pursuant to subdivision (g)  
4 of Section 1248.1 of the Health and Safety Code.

5 (f) A doctor of podiatric medicine shall not perform an  
6 admitting history and physical examination of a patient in an acute  
7 care hospital where doing so would violate the regulations  
8 governing the Medicare program.

9 (g) The amendment of this section made at the 1983–84  
10 Regular Session of the Legislature is intended to codify existing  
11 practice.

12 (h) A podiatrist licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for  
13 purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and  
14 thus is a health care practitioner subject to the provisions of  
15 Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section.

16 SEC. 2. Section 2484 of the Business and Professions Code  
17 is amended to read:

18 2484. In addition to any other requirements of this chapter,  
19 before a certificate to practice podiatric medicine may be issued,  
20 each applicant shall show by evidence satisfactory to the board,  
21 submitted directly to the board by the sponsoring institution, that  
22 he or she has satisfactorily completed at least two years of  
23 postgraduate podiatric medical and podiatric surgical training in  
24 a general acute care hospital approved by the Council of Podiatric  
25 Medical Education.

26 SEC. 3. Section 2493 of the Business and Professions Code  
27 is repealed.

28 SEC. 4. Section 2493 is added to the Business and Professions  
29 Code, to read:

30 2493. (a) An applicant for a certificate to practice podiatric  
31 medicine shall pass an examination in the subjects required by  
32 Section 2483.

33 (b) The board shall require a passing score on the National  
34 Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Part III examination that is  
35 consistent with the postgraduate training requirement in Section  
36 2484. The board, as of July 1, 2005, shall require a passing score  
37 one standard error of measurement higher than the national  
38 passing ~~scale~~ *scale* score until such time as the National Board  
39 of Podiatric Medical Examiners recommends a higher passing  
40 score consistent with Section 2484. In consultation with the Office



1 of Examination Resources of the Department of Consumer  
2 Affairs, the board shall ensure that the Part III examination  
3 adequately evaluates the full scope of practice established by  
4 Section 2472, including amputation and other foot and ankle  
5 surgical procedures, pursuant to Section 139.

O

