

SENATE BILL NO. 405—COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

MARCH 19, 2001

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Makes various changes relating to practice of podiatry. (BDR 54-38)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to podiatry; authorizing a podiatric physician who is licensed by the state board of podiatry to amputate toes if he is certified by the board to do so; requiring the board to adopt regulations that prescribe the requirements for that certification; prohibiting a county hospital from denying a podiatric physician admission to the staff of the hospital under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1     **Section 1.** NRS 635.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2     635.085 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a podiatric  
3     physician licensed by the board may:  
4         (a) Administer electricity to the foot or leg by means including  
5     electrodes, machinery and rays.  
6         (b) Use his hands and machinery to work upon the foot or leg and its  
7     articulations.  
8         (c) Apply any mechanical appliance to the foot or leg or in the shoe to  
9     treat any disease, deformity or ailment.  
10        (d) Apply pads, adhesives, felt, plasters and any medicine to the foot  
11     and leg.  
12        (e) Prescribe and dispense controlled substances and dangerous drugs.  
13        (f) Construct models of the feet.  
14        (g) Administer a local anesthetic.  
15        (h) Use any cutting instrument to treat a disease, ailment or condition.  
16        (i) Treat the effects of a systemic disease upon the foot or leg.  
17        ***(j) Amputate a toe if he has been certified by the board to do so.***  
18     2. A podiatric physician shall not:  
19        (a) Treat any other effect of a systemic disease unless the disease  
20     originates in the foot or leg.



1 (b) Amputate a leg ~~[-foot or toe.]~~ or foot.  
2 **3. The board shall adopt regulations that prescribe the requirements**  
3 **for the certification of a podiatric physician to amputate toes.**

4 **Sec. 2.** NRS 450.430 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
5 450.430 1. In the management of the public hospital, no  
6 discrimination may be made against physicians , **podiatric physicians** or  
7 dentists licensed under the laws of ~~Nevada or duly~~ **this state or** licensed  
8 practitioners of the allied health professions, and all such physicians,  
9 dentists , **podiatric physicians** and practitioners have privileges in treating  
10 patients in the hospital in accordance with their training and ability, except  
11 that practitioners of the allied health professions may not be members of  
12 the staff of physicians described in NRS 450.440. Practitioners of the allied  
13 health professions are subject to the bylaws and regulations established by  
14 the board of hospital trustees.

15 2. The patient has the right to employ, at his own expense, his own  
16 physician, if ~~such~~ **that** physician is a member of the hospital staff, or **his**  
17 **own** nurse, and when acting for any patient in ~~such~~ **the** hospital , the  
18 physician employed by ~~such~~ **the** patient has charge of the care and  
19 treatment of the patient , ~~;~~ and **the** nurses ~~therein are as to such patient~~  
20 ~~subject to~~ **in the hospital shall comply with** the directions of ~~such~~  
21 ~~physician, subject always to the general~~ **the physician concerning that**  
22 **patient, subject to the** regulations established by the board of hospital  
23 trustees.

24 **Sec. 3.** NRS 450.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
25 450.440 1. The board of hospital trustees shall organize a staff of  
26 physicians composed of ~~every~~ **each** regular practicing physician ,  
27 **podiatric physician** and dentist in the county in which the hospital is  
28 located who requests staff membership and meets the standards ~~fixed by~~  
29 **set forth in** the regulations ~~laid down~~ **prescribed** by the board of hospital  
30 trustees.

31 2. The staff shall organize in a manner prescribed by the board so that  
32 there is a rotation of service among the members of the staff to give proper  
33 medical and surgical attention and service to the indigent sick, injured or  
34 maimed who may be admitted to the hospital for treatment.

35 3. No member of the staff ~~nor~~ **or** any other physician who attends an  
36 indigent patient may receive any compensation for his services except as  
37 otherwise provided in NRS 450.180 or to the extent that **the** medical care is  
38 paid for by any governmental authority or any private medical care  
39 program.

40 4. The board of hospital trustees or the board of county commissioners  
41 may offer the following assistance to members of the staff ~~in order~~ to  
42 attract and retain them:

- 43 (a) Establishment of clinic or group practice;  
44 (b) Malpractice insurance coverage under the hospital's policy of  
45 professional liability insurance;  
46 (c) Professional fee billing; and



- 1 (d) The opportunity to rent office space in facilities owned or operated
- 2 by the hospital, as the space is available, if this opportunity is offered to all
- 3 members of the staff on the same terms and conditions.

