

Senate Bill No. 405—Committee on Human  
Resources and Facilities

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to podiatry; authorizing a podiatric physician who is licensed by the state board of podiatry to amputate toes under certain circumstances; 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:

**Section 1.** NRS 635.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

635.085 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a podiatric physician licensed by the board may:

(a) Administer electricity to the foot or leg by means including electrodes, machinery and rays.

(b) Use his hands and machinery to work upon the foot or leg and its articulations.

(c) Apply any mechanical appliance to the foot or leg or in the shoe to treat any disease, deformity or ailment.

(d) Apply pads, adhesives, felt, plasters and any medicine to the foot and leg.

(e) Prescribe and dispense controlled substances and dangerous drugs.

(f) Construct models of the feet.

(g) Administer a local anesthetic.

(h) Use any cutting instrument to treat a disease, ailment or condition.

(i) Treat the effects of a systemic disease upon the foot or leg.

*(j) Amputate a toe if he:*

*(1) Performs the amputation in a hospital as defined in NRS 449.012 or a surgical center for ambulatory patients as defined in NRS 449.019;*

*(2) Is authorized by the hospital or surgical center to perform the amputation;*

*(3) Has completed a program of surgical training as a resident and provides proof satisfactory to the hospital or surgical center of his completion of the program;*

*(4) Complies with any other requirements established by the hospital or surgical center; and*

*(5) Performs the amputation in accordance with the standard of care required for a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 630, 630A or 633 of NRS.*

2. A podiatric physician shall not:

(a) Treat any other effect of a systemic disease unless the disease originates in the foot or leg.

(b) Amputate a leg ~~1. foot or toe.~~ *or foot.*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 450.006 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.006 “Allied health profession” means:

1. Psychology as defined in chapter 641 of NRS; *or*

2. ~~Podiatry as defined in chapter 635 of NRS; or~~

~~—3.—~~ Oriental medicine or acupuncture as defined in chapter 634A of NRS.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 450.430 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.430 1. In the management of the public hospital, no discrimination may be made against physicians, *podiatric physicians* or dentists licensed under the laws of ~~Nevada or duly~~ *this state or* licensed practitioners of the allied health professions, and all such physicians, dentists, *podiatric physicians* and practitioners have privileges in treating patients in the hospital in accordance with their training and ability, except that practitioners of the allied health professions may not be members of the staff of physicians described in NRS 450.440. Practitioners of the allied health professions are subject to the bylaws and regulations established by the board of hospital trustees.

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

**Sec. 4.** NRS 450.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.440 1. The board of hospital trustees shall organize a staff of physicians composed of ~~every~~ *each* regular practicing physician, *podiatric physician* and dentist in the county in which the hospital is located who requests staff membership and meets the standards ~~fixed by~~ *set forth* in the regulations ~~laid down~~ *prescribed* by the board of hospital trustees.

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

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

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

- (a) Establishment of clinic or group practice;
- (b) Malpractice insurance coverage under the hospital's policy of professional liability insurance;
- (c) Professional fee billing; and
- (d) The opportunity to rent office space in facilities owned or operated by the hospital, as the space is available, if this opportunity is offered to all members of the staff on the same terms and conditions.