

By: Representative Barton

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 976

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-27-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 REVISE THE DEFINITION OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE TO INCLUDE TREATMENT
 3 OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE AND THEIR GOVERNING AND RELATED STRUCTURES;
 4 TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF PODIATRIST TO MEAN A PHYSICIAN WHO
 5 ENGAGES IN THE PRACTICE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE; TO AUTHORIZE
 6 PODIATRISTS TO PERFORM CONSERVATIVE AND SURGICAL TREATMENTS OF THE
 7 FOOT AND ANKLE AND THEIR GOVERNING AND RELATED STRUCTURES AFTER
 8 THEY HAVE COMPLETED TRAINING DETERMINED TO BE SUFFICIENT BY THE
 9 STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AT A PROGRAM ACCREDITED BY A
 10 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION ACCEPTABLE TO THE
 11 BOARD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-27-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 14 amended as follows:

15 73-27-1. (1) The practice of podiatric medicine is that
 16 profession concerned with the prevention, examination, diagnosis
 17 and medical, surgical and adjuvant treatment of conditions of the
 18 human foot and ankle and their governing and related structures,
 19 including the muscles or tendons of the lower leg governing the
 20 functions of the foot and ankle and soft tissue up to the tibial
 21 tubercle/tuberosity. For the purpose of this section, "ankle"
 22 means the ankle joint, which consists of the distal third of the



23 tibia and fibula and their articulations with the talus and the
24 soft tissue structures surrounding the foot and ankle. * * *

25 (2) A podiatrist is a * * * physician who engages in the
26 practice of podiatric medicine.

27 (3) A podiatrist may prescribe and administer drugs and
28 tests, excluding general and spinal anesthesia, that are essential
29 to the practice of podiatric medicine when used for or in
30 connection with treatment of disorders of the human foot and ankle
31 and their governing and related structures, including the muscles
32 or tendons of the lower leg governing the functions of the foot
33 and ankle and soft tissue up to the tibial tubercle/tuberosity.

34 (4) A podiatrist properly licensed in Mississippi may
35 perform conservative and surgical treatments of the foot and ankle
36 and their governing and related structures, including the muscles
37 or tendons of the lower leg governing the functions of the foot
38 and ankle and soft tissue up to the tibial tubercle/tuberosity,
39 when that podiatrist has completed training determined to be
40 sufficient by the State Board of Medical Licensure at a program
41 accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting association
42 acceptable to the board. Implementation of the provisions of this
43 subsection (4) shall be made pursuant to rules promulgated by the
44 board that are predicated on the education or level of training,
45 or both, of an applicant.

46 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2024.

