

**MOTION BY:  
DIRECTOR MICHAEL A. ZAPF, DPM**

**Legislative Committee of the Board of Podiatric Medicine  
February 18, 2015**

**Committee Agenda Item No. 3 (LG):**

WHEREAS passage of legislation in 1983 (chapter 305, Statutes of 1983) clarified that treatment of the ankle was in fact part of the licensed scope of practice for doctors of podiatric medicine;

WHEREAS podiatric physicians passing a rigorous and sophisticated oral examination for ankle certification administered by the Board of Podiatric Medicine ("BPM") have had the licensed authority to surgically treat the ankle in addition to the human foot;

WHEREAS SB 1981 (Greene, Chapter 736, Statutes of 1998) repealed the requirement that doctors of podiatric medicine obtain a certificate from BPM in order to perform ankle surgery and simply authorized all doctors of podiatric medicine certified by BPM after January 1, 1984, to perform ankle surgery;

WHEREAS the law defines podiatric medicine to mean the diagnosis, medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative and electrical treatment of the human foot including the ankle and tendons that insert into the foot and the nonsurgical treatment of the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the functions of the foot;

WHEREAS enactment of AB 932 of 2004 removed outdated statutory language prohibiting doctors of podiatric medicine from performing partial foot amputations and essentially created a two-tier system of licensure between doctors of podiatric medicine who were ankle certified on or after January 1, 1984, and permitted to perform amputations from those who were not;

WHEREAS BPM offered non-ankle certified podiatric physicians additional ankle certification examination opportunities in order to permit them to continue performing digital amputations as part of their podiatric medical practice in the care, treatment, management and preservation of diabetic foot;

WHEREAS ankle certification examinations were again discontinued in 2010 due to a lack of demand from the podiatric medical profession;

WHEREAS thirty years (30) have now passed wherein surgical treatment of the ankle has been affirmed and recognized as part of the legitimate licensed scope of practice for doctors of podiatric medicine;

I THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Podiatric Medicine instruct the Executive Officer to:

1. Study to determine whether continued reference to ankle certification on or after January 1, 1984, should be removed from section 2472 of the California Business and Professions Code and to report back to Committee in May with findings and a recommendation.

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