- 1 HB155
- 2 135912-2
- 3 By Representative Johnson (R)
- 4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
- 5 First Read: 07-FEB-12
- 6 PFD: 02/03/2012

Τ	135912-2:n:02/03/2012:FC/tj LRS2012-464R1
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8	SYNOPSIS: This bill would relate to the licensing of
9	prosthetists and orthotists. The bill would define
10	an orthotic fitter, would specify that an orthotic
11	supplier provides non-custom orthoses, and would
12	further specify that the licensing law applies to a
13	licensed therapeutic shoe fitter instead of using
14	the term registered therapeutic shoe fitter. The
15	bill would also conform the abbreviated licensure
16	titles in the law.
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18	A BILL
19	TO BE ENTITLED
20	AN ACT
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22	To amend Sections 34-25A-3, 34-25A-4, 34-25A-5,
23	34-25A-7, and $34-25A-11$ of the Code of Alabama 1975, relating
24	to the State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists; to further
25	provide for definitions; to specify that an orthotic supplier
26	provides non-custom arthoses, to enecify that the law applies

1 to licensed therapeutic shoe fitters; and to conform the

2 abbreviated licensure titles in the law.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. Sections 34-25A-3, 34-25A-4, 34-25A-5,

34-25A-7, and 34-25A-11 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are

amended to read as follows:

7 "\$34-25A-3.

8 "As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- "(1) ACCREDITED FACILITY. A facility where prosthetic, orthotic, prosthetic and orthotic, or pedorthic care is provided to patients needing such care and has met the requirements of the board for such designation. The board shall require that all accredited facilities meet the requirements of a national certifying board, recognized by the state board in prosthetics, orthotics, and pedorthics accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) in the discipline or disciplines for which the application is made.
- "(2) ACCREDITED PEDORTHIC FACILITY. A facility where pedorthic care may be provided that has met the requirements of the board for such designation. An accredited pedorthic facility shall contain a site that includes at least the following equipment: Sanding/grinding equipment suitable for use, an oven for plastics and foams used in the fabrication of pedorthic devices, and a vacuum device for forming pedorthic devices.

- "(3) AUTHORIZED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER. A

  physician licensed to practice medicine or a person licensed

  a or authorized to practice podiatry pursuant to Article 6

  (commencing with Section 34-24-230) of Chapter 24.
- 5 "(4) BOARD. The Alabama State Board of Prosthetists 6 and Orthotists.
- 7 "(5) CHIROPRACTOR. A person licensed and acting 8 within the definition as found in Section 34-24-120.

- "(6) MASTECTOMY FITTER. A health care professional who is specifically educated and trained in the provision of breast prostheses and post-mastectomy services, including patient assessment, formulation of a treatment plan, implementation of the treatment plan, and follow-up and practice management, which is consistent with nationally recognized programs which are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).
- "(7) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
  ASSISTANT/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AIDE. A person who is
  licensed as an occupational therapist, or occupational
  therapist assistant, or occupational therapist aide as defined
  in Section 34-39-3.
- "(8) ORTHOSIS. A custom-fabricated, definitive brace or support that is designed for long-term use.

  Custom-fabricated orthoses, also known as custom-made orthoses, are devices designed and made from raw materials or commercially available components for a specific patient and

require the generation of an image, form, or mold that

replicates the patient's body or body segment and involves the rectification of dimensions, contours, and volumes to achieve proper fit, comfort, and function for that specific patient. Except for the treatment of scoliosis, orthosis does not include prefabricated or direct-formed orthotic devices, as defined in this subdivision and does not include any of the following items: Commercially available knee orthoses used following injury or surgery; upper extremity adaptive equipment; finger splints; leather wrist gauntlets; face masks used following burns; wheelchair seating that is an integral part of the wheelchair and not worn by the patient independent of the wheelchair; fabric or elastic supports; corsets; arch supports, also known as non-custom or prefabricated orthotics; low-temperature formed plastic splints; trusses; elastic hose; canes; crutches; cervical collars; dental appliances, and other similar devices as determined by the board, such as those commonly carried in stock by a pharmacy, hospital, rehabilitation facility, department store, corset shop, or surgical supply facility. Prefabricated orthoses, also known as custom-fitted or off-the-shelf, are devices that are manufactured as commercially available items for no particular patient. Direct-formed orthoses are devices formed or shaped during the molding process directly on the patient's body or body segment.

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"(9) ORTHOTIC FITTER. A health care practitioner, licensed with the board, who is specifically educated and trained in the provision of certain orthoses, including

patient assessment, formulation of a treatment plan,

follow-up, and practice management, consistent with nationally

recognized programs accredited by the National Commission for

Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

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"(9) (10) ORTHOTICS. The science and practice of evaluating, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling, fitting, adjusting, or servicing, as well as providing the initial training necessary to accomplish the fitting of, an orthosis for the support, correction, or alleviation of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal dysfunction, disease, injury, or deformity. The practice of orthotics encompasses evaluations and consultation and continuing care, with basic observational gait and posture analysis. Orthotists assess the need for and measure, design, manufacture, and fit orthoses to maximize function and provide not only the support but the alignment necessary to either prevent or correct deformity or to improve the safety and efficiency of mobility or locomotion, or both. Orthotic practice includes periodic evaluation and consultation to assess its effect on the patient's tissue and assure proper fit and function of the orthotic device.

"(10) (11) ORTHOTIC SUPPLIER. A person licensed with the board who is employed by or has a contractual relationship with a manufacturer of orthoses or orthosis components and who has complied with the registration requirements of the board.

"(11) (12) ORTHOTIST. A person licensed to practice orthotics under this chapter.

"(12) (13) ORTHOTIST ASSISTANT. A person licensed
under terms to be defined by the board and employed by the
same agency as his or her licensed referring evaluator.

"(13) (14) PEDORTHIC DEVICE. Custom therapeutic shoes, diabetic shoes if prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner for the treatment of partial or complete amputation of the foot, foot ulceration, pre-ulcerative callous, or foot deformity, shoe modifications made for therapeutic purposes, partial foot prostheses, and foot orthoses and orthoses for use from the knee and below used for the treatment or alleviation, or both, of a condition that has its origin in the foot. A pedorthic device addresses a medical condition of the foot below the ankle and is prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner.

"(14) (15) PEDORTHICS. The design, manufacture, modification, or fit of custom shoes, orthoses, and pedorthic devices to prevent or alleviate foot problems caused by disease, congenital defect, overuse, or injury.

"(15) (16) PEDORTHIST. A person who is licensed to practice pedorthics under this chapter.

"(16) (17) PHYSICAL THERAPIST/PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT/PHYSICAL THERAPIST TECHNICIAN. A person who is licensed to practice as defined in Section 34-24-191.

"(17) (18) PHYSICIAN. A person who is a doctor of medicine or a doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice.

"(18) (19) PODIATRIST. A person licensed or authorized to practice podiatry pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 24.

"(19) (20) PROSTHESIS. A definitive artificial limb that is alignable or articulated or, in lower extremity applications, capable of bearing weight. Prosthesis means an artificial medical device that is not surgically implanted and that is used to replace a missing limb, appendage, or other external human body part and that includes an artificial limb, hand, or foot. The term does not include artificial eyes, ears, dental appliances, ostomy products, devices such as artificial breasts or eyelashes, wigs, or other devices as determined by the board that do not have a significant impact on the musculoskeletal functions of the body.

"(20) (21) PROSTHETICS. The science and practice of evaluating, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling, fitting, aligning, adjusting, or servicing, as well as providing the initial education necessary to accomplish the wearing and use of a prosthesis, through the replacement of external parts of a human body lost due to amputation or congenital deformities or absences. The practice of prosthetics also includes the generation of an image, form, or mold that replicates the patient's body or body segment and that requires rectification of dimensions, contours, and volumes for use in the design and fabrication of a socket to accept a residual limb to create an artificial appendage that is designed either to support body weight or to improve or

1 restore function or cosmesis, or both. Involved in the 2 practice of prosthetics is observational gait analysis and clinical assessment of the requirements necessary to refine 3 and mechanically fix the relative position of various parts of the prosthesis to maximize the function, stability, and safety of the patient. The practice of prosthetics includes 6 7 evaluation, consultation, and providing continuing patient care in order to assess the effect of the prosthetic device on 8 9 the patient's tissues and to assure proper fit and function of 10 the prosthetic device.

"(21) (22) PROSTHETIST. A person who is licensed to practice prosthetics under this chapter.

"(22) (23) PROSTHETIST ASSISTANT. A person licensed under terms to be defined by the board and employed by the same agency as his or her licensed referring evaluator.

"(23) (24) PROSTHETIST/ORTHOTIST. A person licensed to practice prosthetics and orthotics under this chapter.

"(24) (25) THERAPEUTIC SHOE FITTER. A health care professional who is specifically educated and trained to provide non-custom therapeutic shoes and non-custom multi-density inserts. This includes patient assessment, formulation of a plan, implementation of the treatment plan, follow-up, and practice management.

"§34-25A-4.

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"(a) A licensed prosthetist, licensed orthotist, or licensed prosthetist/orthotist may provide services utilizing new prostheses or orthoses for which he or she is licensed and

only under a written order from an authorized health care practitioner. A consultation with and periodic review by an authorized health care practitioner is not required for the evaluation, repair, adjusting, or servicing of a prosthesis by a licensed prosthetist, or licensed prosthetist/orthotist and for the evaluation, repair, adjusting, or servicing of an orthosis by a licensed orthotist, or licensed prosthetist/orthotist; nor is an order from an authorized health care practitioner required for maintenance or replacement of an orthosis or prosthesis to the level of its original prescription for an indefinite period of time if the original order remains appropriate for the patient's medical needs.

"(b) Prosthetists and orthotists must refer persons receiving service to authorized health care practitioners if they have reasonable cause to believe symptoms or conditions are present that require services beyond the scope of their practice or for which the prescribed prosthetic or orthotic service is contraindicated.

"(c) An orthotic supplier may engage in one or more of the following: Evaluating, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling, fitting, adjusting, servicing, repairing, replacing, or delivering non-custom orthoses. An orthotic supplier may provide non-custom orthoses in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, physician's offices, physician's clinics, or other sites as required. An orthotic supplier shall provide non-custom orthoses based on a written

prescription from an authorized health care practitioner and under the supervision of such authorized health care practitioner.

"\$34-25A-5.

- "(a) Except as provided in subsection (h) or (i), no person shall administer prosthetic, orthotic, or pedorthic care in this state unless licensed or registered to do so in accordance with this chapter. The board shall issue approved forms for application prior to January 1, 2003.
- "(b) In order to obtain a license as a prosthetist, orthotist, or prosthetist/orthotist in this state, an applicant shall be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, and shall do the following:
- "(1) File a written application on forms to be developed and approved by the board. The applicant shall meet at least one of the following requirements after a one-year grandfather period:
- "a. The applicant shall possess a baccalaureate degree in orthotics and prosthetics from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency and complete 1,900 hours per discipline sought of directed employment under the supervision of a certified/licensed prosthetist, a certified/licensed orthotist or a certified/licensed prosthetist/orthotist in an accredited facility, and be certified as a prosthetist, orthotist, or

prosthetist/orthotist by a nationally recognized certifying board in orthotics and prosthetics accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), or such other national agency as approved by the board, in the discipline or disciplines for which the application is made.

"b. The applicant shall possess a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and have successfully completed a post-baccalaureate certificate course approved by the board and completed 1,900 hours of directed employment per discipline in which license is sought under the supervision of a certified/licensed prosthetist, a certified/licensed orthotist, or a certified/licensed prosthetist/orthotist in an accredited facility, and be certified by a nationally recognized certifying board in prosthetics or orthotics accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), or such other national agency as approved by the board, in the discipline or disciplines for which application is made.

"c. The applicant shall possess an associate's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, junior college, or community college and have successfully completed postsecondary coursework in anatomy, physiology, physics, biology, chemistry, algebra, and calculus and have worked under the supervision of a certified/licensed prosthetist, a certified/licensed orthotist, or a certified/licensed prosthetist/orthotist for not less than four consecutive years of the past six years in an accredited

facility, and be certified by a nationally recognized

certifying board in prosthetics or orthotics accredited by the

National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), or such

other national agency as may be approved by the board.

"d. The applicant shall have successfully completed postsecondary coursework in anatomy, physiology, physics, biology, chemistry, algebra, and calculus and have worked under the supervision of a certified/licensed prosthetist, a certified/licensed orthotist, or a certified/licensed prosthetist/orthotist for not less than eight years of the last 12 years and be certified as a prosthetist, orthotist, or prosthetist/orthotist by a nationally recognized board accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), or such national agency as may be approved by the board, in the discipline or disciplines for which application is made.

"(2) Any applicant after the first year following the board's issuance of applications shall meet the requirements of paragraph a., b., or d. of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) prior to receiving a license as a prosthetist, an orthotist, or a prosthetist/orthotist.

"(c) In order to obtain a license as a pedorthist in this state, an applicant shall be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, and shall file a written application on forms to be developed and approved by

the board. Applicants shall be in good standing as a certified pedorthist with an entity accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

- "(d) In order to obtain registration as an orthotic supplier, an applicant shall be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, and shall do the following:
  - "(1) File a written application on forms to be developed and approved by the board. Such forms shall require personal information such as full name, current address, educational status and history, and work history for the last five years of employment.
  - "(2) The application forms shall be accompanied, when submitted, by attestation of employment by or contractual relationship with a manufacturer of orthoses or orthosis components whether registered with the United States Food and Drug Administration or not. Attestation shall be by notarized statement signed by the president, chief operating officer, or other designated corporate official of the employing company.
  - "(e) The board shall grant a license without an examination for those qualified applicants who apply within one year of the issuance of application forms by the board. For purposes of this subsection, qualified applicants are those who possess current credentials as a Certified Prosthetist, Certified Orthotist, or Certified

Prosthetist/Orthotist issued by the American Board for

Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics, Incorporated, or

3 the Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification as a

4 prosthetist, orthotist, or prosthetist/orthotist.

- "(f) The board may issue a 12-month temporary license as a prosthetist, an orthotist, a pedorthist, or a prosthetist/orthotist to persons who have applied for licensure and are awaiting examination. The temporary license is renewable once for a six-month period if the applicant fails to pass the examination at the first sitting.
- "(g) The board shall grant a license as a prosthetist, an orthotist, a prosthetist/orthotist, or pedorthist to an applicant in possession of a current license as a prosthetist, orthotist, prosthetist/orthotist, or pedorthist in another state or territory of the United States without examination if the board determines that the credentialing standards set by the other state or territory are substantially equivalent to the standards set by the board for this state.
- "(h) No person may represent himself or herself as a licensed prosthetist, licensed orthotist, licensed prosthetist/orthotist, or licensed pedorthist, use a title or description of services, or engage in the practice of prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics without applying for licensure, meeting the required qualifications, and being licensed by the board unless otherwise exempted by this chapter. A person not licensed with the board may not

represent himself or herself as being so licensed and may not 1 2 use, in connection with his or her name, the words licensed orthotist, orthotist, licensed prosthetist, prosthetist, 3 4 licensed prosthetist/orthotist, prosthetist/orthotist, licensed pedorthist, pedorthist, licensed orthotic fitter, 5 6 orthotic fitter, licensed mastectomy fitter, mastectomy 7 fitter, <u>licensed therapeutic shoe fitter</u>, therapeutic shoe fitter, or letters "L.O.," "L.P.," "L.P.O.," "L.O.A.," "LPed," 8 "L.P.A.," "L.P.O.A.," "L.M.F.," "L.O.F.," "L.T.S.F." or other 9 10 letters, words, signs, numbers, or insignia indicating or implying that he or she is either a licensed prosthetist, a 11 12 licensed orthotist, a licensed prosthetist/orthotist, a 13 licensed pedorthist, a licensed mastectomy fitter, a licensed 14 therapeutic shoe fitter, or a licensed orthotic fitter in the 15 State of Alabama without first having a valid license. The license shall be posted in a conspicuous location at the 16 17 person's work site.

"(i) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit or restrict the following:

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"(1) The practice of prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics by individuals authorized and performing services within their authorized scopes of practice as adopted by the State of Alabama Legislature including, but not limited to, authorized health care practitioners, doctors of podiatry, chiropractors, physical therapists, and occupational therapists licensed in this state.

"(2) The practice of prosthetics, orthotics, or

pedorthics by an individual employed by, or in the service of

the government of the United States of America while engaged

in the performance of duties prescribed by the laws of the

United States of America.

- "(3) The practice of prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics by any person not licensed as a prosthetist, orthotist, prosthetist/orthotist, or pedorthist in accordance with this chapter who is employed in a diagnostic laboratory, hospital, rehabilitation facility, or authorized health care practitioner's office or as a medical lab technician or technologist whose function is to administer treatment or perform diagnostic procedures confined to that laboratory or office under the direction of an authorized health care practitioner.
- "(4) The practice of prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics by a person who is a regular or full-time student in a prosthetic or orthotic educational program approved by the board, and whose designated status is student or trainee.
- "(5) A person fulfilling the supervised residency or internship experience requirements described in this chapter.
- "(6) A person who meets the qualifications listed in paragraphs a, b, c, and d of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) from performing prosthetic, orthotic, or pedorthic services in this state, provided the services are not performed for more than 60 days per 12-month period, after notification to the board.

1 "(7) The practice of pharmacy by an individual 2 subject to Chapter 23 of this title.

3 "\$34-25A-7.

4 "The board shall perform all the following duties:

- "(1) Establish and publish continuing education requirements such that a licensed orthotist or a licensed prosthetist or a licensed pedorthist is required to complete a minimum of hours of continuing education and a licensed prosthetist/orthotist is required to complete a minimum of hours of continuing education in each year of a license renewal period. The minimum hours provided in this subdivision shall be established by a national recognized certifying board accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), or such other national agency as approved by the board.
- "(2) Examine for, approve, deny, revoke, suspend, reinstate, and renew licensure accreditation or registration of duly qualified applicants and develop, promulgate, and establish fines, penalties, and requirements for reinstatement of licensure, accreditation, or registration.
- "(3) Receive applications, issue licenses, accreditations, or registrations to applicants who have met the requirements for licensure, accreditation, or registration, and deny licenses, accreditations, or registrations to applicants who do not meet the minimum qualifications.

- "(4) Hire administrative, clerical, investigative,
  and other staff as needed to implement this chapter and hire
  individuals licensed under this chapter to serve as examiners
  for any practical examinations required by the board either
  within the state classified service or not within it.
  - "(5) Promulgate and publish rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to administer this chapter. Any rule or regulation defining the scope of practice or permissible activities of a licensed orthotist, licensed prosthetist, or a licensed prosthetist/orthotist or a registered orthotic supplier shall be published jointly with the State Board of Medical Examiners.
  - "(6) Develop and promulgate requirements and establish fees for the licensure of mastectomy fitters, orthotic fitters, therapeutic shoe fitters, orthotic assistants, prosthetic assistants, or prosthetic/orthotic assistants. Such licenses shall be regulated and issued by the board.
  - "(7) Prepare and administer, or approve the preparation and administration of, examinations for applicants for licensure.

22 "\$34-25A-11.

"(a) The board shall issue an orthotic, prosthetic, or prosthetic/orthotic license or an orthotic supplier registration license to any person who meets the qualifications required by this chapter and who pays the respective fees fixed by the board.

1 "(b) Any person who is issued a license as an 2 orthotic, prosthetic, or prosthetic/orthotic practitioner or orthotic assistant, prosthetic assistant, or 3 4 prosthetic/orthotic assistant under this chapter may use the words licensed orthotist, licensed prosthetist, licensed 5 prosthetist/orthotist, licensed orthotist assistant, licensed 6 7 prosthetist assistant, or licensed prosthetist/orthotist assistant, or the letters "L.O.," "L.P.," "L.P.O.," "L.O.A.," 8 "LPed," "L.P.A.," or "L.P.O.A., " "L.M.F.," "L.O.F.," or 9 10 "L.T.S.F." in connection with his or her name to denote his or her licensure. Any person issued <del>registration</del> a license as an 11 12 orthotic supplier under this chapter may use the words 13 registered licensed orthotic supplier or the letters "R.O.S." 14 "L.O.S." in connection with his or her name to denote his or 15 her registration. "(c) A license or registration issued under this 16 17 chapter shall be subject to annual or semiannual renewal as

Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

prescribed by rule or regulation duly promulgated and

published by the board."

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