

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 893

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S. P. 280

In Senate, March 15, 1977

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Pierce of Kennebec.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Concerning the Power of Podiatrists.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

32 MRSA § 3551 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 3551. Definitions

The practice of podiatry is defined as the diagnosis and treatment of the human foot by medical, mechanical or surgical means without the use of anesthetics other than local except that the use of local anesthesia shall be restricted to use only by those podiatrists who have been granted a doctorate degree from a school approved by the examiners and except that the use of anesthesia, general or local, shall be permitted in conjunction with the practice of podiatry when it is administered by a medical or osteopathic physician who assumes responsibility for the administration of anesthesia to a patient being treated by a podiatrist. A podiatrist is defined as one who administers any such treatment to the human foot. The words "podiatrist" and "chiroprapist," "podiatry" and "chiroprody" shall be construed to be synonymous.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the practice of podiatry in light of recent opinions of the Attorney General. Under the Attorney General's opinion, a podiatrist is not permitted to operate on a person's foot while the person is under a general anesthesia, even if that anesthesia is being administered by a medical or osteopathic physician authorized by law to administer general anes-

thetia. This interpretation of the Podiatric Practice Act forces the podiatrist to utilize only local anesthetic methods when it might be in the best interests of the patient to be administered a general anesthesia. This bill would permit a podiatrist to operate within the scope of his practice when a physician administers a general anesthesia.