EXHIBIT C5

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-102

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly

A Bill

JMB/JMB
HOUSE BILL

By: Representative L. Johnson

Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PODIATRIC MEDICINE"; TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PODIATRISTS; TO ALLOW A PODIATRIST TO BE A SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN OF A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PODIATRIC MEDICINE"; TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PODIATRISTS; AND TO ALLOW A PODIATRIST TO BE A SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN OF A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-96-101 is amended to read as follows:

17-96-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1)(A) "Podiatric medicine" means the diagnosis and medical, mechanical, and surgical treatment of ailments of the human foot and ankle, including without limitation:

(i) Hyperbaric oxygen therapy; and

(ii) Transverse tibial transport surgery to treat severe, non-healing wounds or diabetic foot ulcers.

(B) "Podiatric medicine" does not include:

(i) Amputation of the human foot;

(ii) Nerve or vascular grafting; or

(iii) Administration of any anesthetic other than a local anesthetic.

(C) "Podiatric medicine" shall be performed in a facility accredited by either Medicare or The Joint Commission for surgeries performed above the level of the foot other than skin and skin structures; and

(2) "Podiatrist" means a physician legally licensed to practice podiatric medicine. ~~However, no podiatrist shall amputate the human foot or perform nerve or vascular grafting or administer any anesthetic other than a local anesthetic. All ankle surgery performed above the level of the foot other than skin and skin structures shall be performed in a facility accredited by either Medicare or by The Joint Commission.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 96, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17-96-105. Signature authority for durable medical equipment.

(a) A podiatrist licensed under this chapter shall have the authority to sign an authorization for durable medical equipment, including without limitation orthotics, prosthetics, and diabetic shoes or shoe inserts that are designed to reduce the risk of skin breakdown in patients with diabetes and existing foot disease and to relieve pressure to prevent diabetic foot ulcers.

(b) This section does not expand the scope of practice of a podiatrist.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-105-101(4), concerning the definition of "supervising physician" relating to the licensing of physician assistants, is amended to read as follows:

(4) "Supervising physician" means a doctor of medicine, ~~or~~ doctor of osteopathy, or a podiatrist licensed by the ~~board~~ Arkansas State Medical Board or the Arkansas Board of Podiatric Medicine who supervises physician assistants; and

Referred by Representative L. Johnson

Prepared by: JMB/JMB