

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 169 (Senator Patterson)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Health Occupations - Podiatric Physicians**

---

This bill alters references to “podiatrist” to be “podiatric physician” throughout the Maryland Code. The bill further establishes that references to podiatrist are changed to podiatric physician in every law, executive order, rule, regulation, policy, or document created by any official, employee, or unit of the State. The publisher of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative Services, must correct, with no further action required by the General Assembly, cross-references and terminology that are rendered incorrect by the bill. The publisher must adequately describe any correction that is made in an editor’s note following the section affected.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect local finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An individual must be licensed by the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners before the individual may practice podiatry in this State. “Practice podiatry” means to diagnose or surgically, medically, or mechanically treat the human foot or ankle, the anatomical structures that attach to the human foot, or the soft tissue below the mid-calf.

In order to qualify for a license to practice podiatry, among other requirements, an applicant must be a graduate of a school or college of podiatry that is accredited by the Council on Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association and that is approved by the board; an applicant must also pass an examination given by the board.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine, a podiatrist is a “Doctor of Podiatric Medicine” (DPM) and is also referred to as a podiatric physician or podiatric surgeon. Podiatrists are defined as physicians by the federal government. DPMs are specialists in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lower extremity disorders, diseases, and injuries; within the profession, DPMs can specialize in areas such as surgery, orthopedics, and public health.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 428 of 2020 and HB 1430 of 2018 received hearings in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken on either bill.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 182 (Delegate Kerr) - Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 2021  
an/jc

---

Analysis by: Amber R. Gundlach

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510