

45:12B-3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 1999 **CHAPTER:** 115
NJSA: 45:12B-3 (Orthotists & prosthetists – licensing)
BILL NO: A415 (Substituted for S1165 – 1st Reprint)

SPONSOR(S): Moran & Impeveduto

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Consumer Affairs & Regulated Professions
SENATE: Commerce

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** January 28, 1998 Re-enacted 3-29-99
SENATE: December 17, 1998 Re-enacted 5-10-99

DATE OF APPROVAL: May 21, 1999

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: 4th Reprint
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A415

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 7 of original bill) Yes
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes
SENATE: Yes
FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: Yes
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No
3rd Reprint Yes

S1165

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 8 of original bill) Yes
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No
SENATE: Yes
Identical to Senate Statement for A415
FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

[Fourth Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 415

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JEFFREY W. MORAN

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

Assemblyman ANTHONY IMPREVEDUTO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singer, O'Connor and Connors

SYNOPSIS

Revises licensing provisions for orthotists and prosthetists.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on March 18, 1999 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/1998)

A415 [4R] MORAN, IMPREVEDUTO

2

1 AN ACT concerning orthotists and prosthetists and amending and
2 supplementing P.L.1991, c.512.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-3) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 3. As used in this act:

10 "Board" means the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners
11 created by section 4 of this act.

12 "Chairperson" means the member that is elected yearly by the
13 board.

14 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs
15 in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

16 "Orthotic appliance" means, solely for the purposes of this act, a
17 brace or support but does not include fabric and elastic supports,
18 corsets, arch supports, trusses, elastic hose, canes, crutches, cervical
19 collars, dental appliances or other similar devices carried in stock and
20 sold by drug stores, department stores, corset shops or surgical supply
21 facilities.

22 "Orthotics" means the science or practice of measuring, designing,
23 constructing, assembling, fitting, adjusting or servicing orthotic
24 appliances for the correction or alleviation of musculoskeletal diseases,
25 injuries, or deformities as permitted by prescriptions from a licensed
26 doctor of medicine, dentist, or podiatrist.

27 "Licensed orthotist" means any person who practices orthotics and
28 who represents himself to the public by title or by description of
29 services, under any title incorporating such terms as "orthotics,"
30 "orthotists," "orthotic," or "L.O." or any similar title or description of
31 services, provided that the individual has met the eligibility
32 requirements contained in section 11 of this act and has been duly
33 licensed under this act.

34 "Licensed orthotist assistant" means a person who is licensed
35 pursuant to the provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act
36 and who assists a licensed orthotist under his supervision.

37 "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership,
38 association, or other organization.

39 "Prosthetic appliance" means, solely for the purposes of this act,

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ACP committee amendments adopted May 7, 1998.

² Senate SCM committee amendments adopted October 19, 1998.

³ Senate floor amendments adopted December 10, 1998.

⁴ Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations March 18, 1999.

1 any artificial device that is not surgically implanted and that is used to
2 replace a missing limb, appendage, or any other external human body
3 part including devices such as artificial limbs, hands, fingers, feet and
4 toes, but excluding dental appliances and largely cosmetic devices such
5 as artificial breasts, eyelashes, wigs, or other devices which could not
6 by their use have a significantly detrimental impact upon the
7 musculoskeletal functions of the body.

8 "Prosthetics" means the science or practice of measuring, designing,
9 constructing, assembling, fitting, adjusting or servicing prosthetic
10 appliances as permitted by prescriptions from a licensed doctor of
11 medicine or podiatry.

12 "Licensed prosthetist" means a person who practices prosthetics
13 and who represents himself to the public by title or by description of
14 services, under any title incorporating such terms as "prosthetics,"
15 "prosthetist," "prosthetic," or "L.P." or any similar title or description
16 of services, provided that the individual has met the eligibility
17 requirements contained in section 11 and has been duly licensed under
18 this act.

19 "Licensed prosthetist assistant" means a person who is licensed
20 pursuant to the provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act
21 and who assists a licensed prosthetist under his supervision.

22 "Licensed prosthetist-orthotist" means any person who practices
23 both disciplines of prosthetics and orthotics and who represents
24 himself to the public by title or by description of services, under any
25 title incorporating such terms as "prosthetics-orthotics,"
26 "prosthetist-orthotist," "prosthetic- orthotic," or "L.P.O." or any
27 similar title or description of services, provided that the individual has
28 met the eligibility requirements contained in section 11 and has been
29 duly licensed in both disciplines of prosthetics and orthotics under this
30 act.

31 "Licensed prosthetist-orthotist assistant" means a person who is
32 licensed pursuant to the provisions of this amendatory and
33 supplementary act and who assists a licensed prosthetist-orthotist
34 under his supervision.

35 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.3)

36
37 2. Section 4 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-4) is amended to read
38 as follows:

39 4. There is created within the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
40 Department of Law and Public Safety the Orthotics and Prosthetics
41 Board of Examiners. The board shall be responsible for the licensure
42 of orthotists and prosthetists and persons eligible to be licensed in both
43 disciplines of prosthetics and orthotics as licensed
44 prosthetist-orthotists and for the licensure of orthotist assistants,
45 prosthetist assistants, and prosthetist-orthotist assistants.

46 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.4)

A415 [4R] MORAN, IMPREVEDUTO

4

1 3. Section 9 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-9) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 9. The board shall have the following duties:

4 a. To establish minimum requirements for orthotist, prosthetist and
5 prosthetist-orthotist licenses and for orthotist assistant, prosthetist
6 assistant and prosthetist-orthotist assistant licenses;

7 b. To establish standards, guidelines, and procedures for the
8 completion of clinical internships;

9 c. To evaluate the qualifications of all applicants for licensure as
10 orthotists, prosthetists and prosthetist-orthotists and as orthotist
11 assistants, prosthetist assistants and prosthetist-orthotist assistants;

12 d. To supervise the examination of applicants;

13 e. To establish basic requirements for continuing education; and

14 f. To take any actions at the chairperson's request which may be
15 necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this act.

16 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.9)

17
18 4. Section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-11) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 11. To be eligible for a license to practice orthotics or prosthetics
21 in this State, an individual shall ²¹be a legal resident of this State and
22 shall¹²:

23 a. (1) Possess a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from ⁴[an
24 accredited college or university approved by the [Department of]
25 Commission on Higher] a college or university accredited by a
26 regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United
27 States Secretary of⁴ Education;

28 [b. Have the amount of formal training, including any hours of
29 classroom education and clinical practice, in any areas of study as the
30 board deems necessary and appropriate;

31 c. Complete a clinical internship in the professional area for which
32 a license is sought in accordance with any standards, guidelines, or
33 procedures for clinical internships inside or outside this State
34 established by the board;

35 d. Pass all written, practical and oral examinations, which shall be
36 approved and required by the board and which shall be administered
37 at least once each year.]

38 (2) Complete a clinical internship in the professional area for which
39 a license is sought of not less than 1900 hours under the supervision
40 of a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as the case may be; and

41 (3) ²[Hold current certification in orthotics or prosthetics from a
42 program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying
43 Agencies (NCCA)] Pass all written, practical and oral examinations,
44 which shall be approved and required by the board and which shall be
45 administered at least once each year² ; or

1 b.⁴Meet the following requirements within five years after the date
2 procedures are established by the board for applying for licensure:⁴

3 (1) Complete a clinical ¹ [internship] practice¹ in the professional
4 area for which a license is sought of not less than ¹ [3800] 1900¹
5 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as
6 the case may be; ¹ [and]¹

7 (2) ² [Hold current certification in orthotics or prosthetics from a
8 program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying
9 Agencies (NCCA)¹] Pass all written, practical and oral examinations,
10 which shall be approved and required by the board and which shall be
11 administered at least once each year²; and

12 (3) Possess an associate's degree in science from ⁴ [an accredited
13 college or university approved by the Commission on Higher
14 Education] a college or university accredited by a regional or national
15 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Secretary of
16 Education⁴ with satisfactory completion of course work in biology,
17 anatomy and physiology, physics and chemistry¹.

18 The standards and requirements for licensure established by the
19 board shall be substantially equal to or in excess of standards
20 commonly accepted in the fields of orthotics and prosthetics.

21 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.11)

22
23 5. Section 12 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-12) is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 12. ⁴ [a.]⁴ Any person who [has] practiced full-time for ⁴ [the]⁴
26 [past] [five] three years ⁴ [immediately]⁴ prior to the effective date
27 of this amendatory and supplementary act in an established
28 prosthetic-orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist, or
29 prosthetist-orthotist [as of the effective date of this act] may file an
30 application with the board within 180 days [of the effective date of
31 this act in order] after the date procedures are established by the
32 board for applying for licensure to continue to practice orthotics or
33 prosthetics under the provisions of this act. The applicant may obtain
34 a license to practice orthotics or prosthetics under the provisions of
35 this act [without taking an examination, as required in subsection d.
36 of section 11 of this act,] ² without [taking an examination, as
37 required in] satisfying the requirements of subsection a. or b. of⁴
38 section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-11),² upon receipt of
39 payment of the licensing fee required pursuant to section 21 of this act
40 and after the board has completed an investigation into the applicant's
41 work history. The board shall complete its investigation for the
42 purposes of this section within six months of the date of receipt of the
43 application ⁴ and make a final determination regarding license
44 approval⁴.

45 ⁴ [b. For 360 days after the date procedures are established by the

1 board for applying for licensure, any person who has practiced full-
2 time for not less than three years prior to the effective date of this
3 amendatory and supplementary act in an established prosthetic-
4 orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist or prosthetist-orthotist and
5 who has ¹ [satisfactorily completed a certificate program] passed a
6 certifying examination ¹ in orthotics or prosthetics ¹ [accredited] which
7 has been approved ¹ by ³ a program accredited by ³ the National
8 Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) may obtain a license to
9 practice orthotics or prosthetics without satisfying the requirements of
10 subsection a. or b. of section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-11).] ⁴
11 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.12)

12

13 6. Section 13 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-13) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 13. The board shall issue a license to practice orthotics or
16 prosthetics or act as an orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant or
17 prosthetist-orthotist assistant to all applicants who meet the
18 qualifications established pursuant to this act. Licenses shall be
19 effective for a two-year period and may be renewed biennially.

20 Licensure shall be granted independently in orthotics or prosthetics.
21 An individual may be licensed in both disciplines if that person meets
22 the standards set forth by the board.

23 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.13)

24

25 7. Section 17 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-17) is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 17. No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or hold himself
28 or itself out as being able to practice orthotics or prosthetics or act as
29 an orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist
30 assistant in this State unless that person is licensed in accordance with
31 the provisions of this act.

32 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.17)

33

34 8. Section 18 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-18) is amended to
35 read as follows:

36 18. The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

37 a. The activities and services of any person who is licensed to
38 practice medicine and surgery, dentistry or podiatry by this State;

39 b. The activities and services of a student, fellow, or trainee in
40 orthotics or prosthetics pursuing a course of study at an accredited
41 college or university, or working in a recognized training center or
42 research facility, if these activities and services constitute a part of his
43 course of study under a supervisor licensed pursuant to this act;

44 c. The design, modification, fabrication and application of upper
45 extremity adaptive equipment, finger splints and hand splints by an
46 occupational therapist or [the use of generic braces for evaluation

1 purposes by] a licensed physical therapist [when such bracing is for
2 a term of less than three months and the braces do not become the
3 patient's property]; [or]

4 d. The provision of corsets and soft cervical collars by licensed
5 physical therapists;

6 e. The provision of lower extremity orthotics made of fabric,
7 canvas, neoprene or elastic with or without metal or plastic insertable
8 or removable hinges or stays by licensed physical therapists;

9 f. The provision by a licensed physical therapist of any lower
10 extremity, low temperature splint or ankle foot orthotic when such
11 bracing is for the evaluation or treatment of an adult patient for less
12 than three months or a pediatric patient for less than one year without
13 the consultation of a licensed orthotist and when the braces do not
14 become the patient's property;

15 g. The provision of any off-the-shelf ankle foot orthosis made of
16 fabric, canvas, neoprene, elastic with or without metal or plastic
17 inserts and any ⁴[off-the-shelf] low temperature⁴ posterior leaf ankle
18 foot orthosis by a licensed physical therapist;

19 h. ⁴The provision of any high temperature posterior leaf ankle foot
20 orthosis by a licensed physical therapist conducting research at a
21 college or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting
22 agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education in
23 accordance with standard protocols;

24 i. ⁴The management of lower extremity prosthetic volumetric
25 changes by a licensed physical therapist. Any non-reversible changes
26 shall be addressed by the treating licensed physical therapist only after
27 direct consultation with the treating prosthetist; or

28 ⁴[i.] j. ⁴The activities and services of a certified pedorthist; except
29 that this subsection shall not prevent any certified pedorthist from
30 applying for and obtaining a license under the provisions of P.L.1991,
31 c.512 (C.45:12B-1 et seq.) limiting that person's practice of orthotics
32 and prosthetics to the ankle and below. As used in this subsection:
33 "certified pedorthist" means a person certified by the American Board
34 for Certification in Pedorthics, or its successor, in the design,
35 manufacture, fit and modification of shoes and related foot appliances
36 from the ankle and below as prescribed by a licensed doctor of
37 medicine or podiatry for the amelioration of painful or disabling
38 conditions of the foot; and "foot appliances" includes, but is not
39 limited to, prosthetic fillers and orthotic appliances for use from the
40 ankle and below.

41 (cf: P.L.1992, c.134, s.1)

42

43 9. Section 20 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-20) is amended to
44 read as follows:

45 20. ²a. Every licensed practitioner of orthotics, prosthetics, or
46 both, shall maintain an office in this State.

1 ~~b.~~² Every licensed practitioner of orthotics, prosthetics, or both,
 2 ~~and every licensed orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant, and~~
 3 ~~prosthetist-orthotist assistant~~ in this State shall notify the board of the
 4 practitioner's ~~or assistant's~~ office address. Every practitioner ~~and~~
 5 ~~assistant~~ shall promptly notify the board of any change of office
 6 address. The board shall annually publish complete lists of the names
 7 and office addresses of all orthotists, prosthetists and
 8 ~~prosthetist-orthotists, and all orthotist assistants, prosthetist assistants~~
 9 ~~and prosthetist-orthotist assistants,~~ licensed and practicing ~~or assisting~~
 10 ~~licensed practitioners~~ in this State.

11 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.20)

12

13 10. (New section) To be eligible for licensure as an orthotist
 14 assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist assistant, an
 15 individual shall submit satisfactory evidence to the board that he:

16 a. Is at least 18 years of age;

17 b. Is of good moral character;

18 c. ¹[Has completed formal training, including any hours of
 19 classroom education in any areas of study as the board deems
 20 necessary and appropriate; and

21 d. Passes all written, practical and oral examinations, which shall
 22 be approved and required by the board and which shall be administered
 23 at least once each year] ²[Is a legal resident of this State;

24 ~~d.]² Possesses a high school diploma or its equivalent;~~

25 ²[~~e.] d.² Has completed not less than 40 hours of a formal training
 26 program in orthotics or prosthetics in the case of an individual seeking
 27 licensure as an orthotist assistant or prosthetist assistant, as the case
 28 may be, or not less than 80 hours of a formal training program in the
 29 case of an individual seeking licensure as a prosthetist-orthotist
 30 assistant;~~

31 ²[~~f.] e.² Has completed 1900 hours of clinical practice in the
 32 professional area in which a license is sought under the supervision of
 33 a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as the case may be; and~~

34 ²[~~g. Has passed a certifying examination for orthotist assistants or~~
 35 ~~prosthetist assistants, as the case may be, which has been approved by~~
 36 ~~the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)¹] f. Has
 37 passed all written, practical and oral examinations, which shall be
 38 approved and required by the board for the examination of assistants
 39 and which shall be administered at least once each year².~~

40

41 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Third Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 415

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JEFFREY W. MORAN
District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)
Assemblyman ANTHONY IMPREVEDUTO
District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singer, O'Connor and Connors

SYNOPSIS

Revises licensing provisions for orthotists and prosthetists.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on December 10, 1998.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/1998)

1 AN ACT concerning orthotists and prosthetists and amending and
2 supplementing P.L. 1991, c.512.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-3) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 3. As used in this act:

10 "Board" means the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners
11 created by section 4 of this act.

12 "Chairperson" means the member that is elected yearly by the
13 board.

14 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs
15 in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

16 "Orthotic appliance" means, solely for the purposes of this act, a
17 brace or support but does not include fabric and elastic supports,
18 corsets, arch supports, trusses, elastic hose, canes, crutches, cervical
19 collars, dental appliances or other similar devices carried in stock and
20 sold by drug stores, department stores, corset shops or surgical supply
21 facilities.

22 "Orthotics" means the science or practice of measuring, designing,
23 constructing, assembling, fitting, adjusting or servicing orthotic
24 appliances for the correction or alleviation of musculoskeletal diseases,
25 injuries, or deformities as permitted by prescriptions from a licensed
26 doctor of medicine, dentist, or podiatrist.

27 "Licensed orthotist" means any person who practices orthotics and
28 who represents himself to the public by title or by description of
29 services, under any title incorporating such terms as "orthotics,"
30 "orthotists," "orthotic," or "L.O." or any similar title or description of
31 services, provided that the individual has met the eligibility
32 requirements contained in section 11 of this act and has been duly
33 licensed under this act.

34 "Licensed orthotist assistant" means a person who is licensed
35 pursuant to the provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act
36 and who assists a licensed orthotist under his supervision.

37 "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership,
38 association, or other organization.

39 "Prosthetic appliance" means, solely for the purposes of this act,
40 any artificial device that is not surgically implanted and that is used to

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ACP committee amendments adopted May 7, 1998.

² Senate SCM committee amendments adopted October 19, 1998.

³ Senate floor amendments adopted December 10, 1998.

1 replace a missing limb, appendage, or any other external human body
2 part including devices such as artificial limbs, hands, fingers, feet and
3 toes, but excluding dental appliances and largely cosmetic devices such
4 as artificial breasts, eyelashes, wigs, or other devices which could not
5 by their use have a significantly detrimental impact upon the
6 musculoskeletal functions of the body.

7 "Prosthetics" means the science or practice of measuring, designing,
8 constructing, assembling, fitting, adjusting or servicing prosthetic
9 appliances as permitted by prescriptions from a licensed doctor of
10 medicine or podiatry.

11 "Licensed prosthetist" means a person who practices prosthetics
12 and who represents himself to the public by title or by description of
13 services, under any title incorporating such terms as "prosthetics,"
14 "prosthetist," "prosthetic," or "L.P." or any similar title or description
15 of services, provided that the individual has met the eligibility
16 requirements contained in section 11 and has been duly licensed under
17 this act.

18 "Licensed prosthetist assistant" means a person who is licensed
19 pursuant to the provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act
20 and who assists a licensed prosthetist under his supervision.

21 "Licensed prosthetist-orthotist" means any person who practices
22 both disciplines of prosthetics and orthotics and who represents
23 himself to the public by title or by description of services, under any
24 title incorporating such terms as "prosthetics-orthotics,"
25 "prosthetist-orthotist," "prosthetic- orthotic," or "L.P.O." or any
26 similar title or description of services, provided that the individual has
27 met the eligibility requirements contained in section 11 and has been
28 duly licensed in both disciplines of prosthetics and orthotics under this
29 act.

30 "Licensed prosthetist-orthotist assistant" means a person who is
31 licensed pursuant to the provisions of this amendatory and
32 supplementary act and who assists a licensed prosthetist-orthotist
33 under his supervision.

34 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.3)

35

36 2. Section 4 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-4) is amended to read
37 as follows:

38 4. There is created within the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
39 Department of Law and Public Safety the Orthotics and Prosthetics
40 Board of Examiners. The board shall be responsible for the licensure
41 of orthotists and prosthetists and persons eligible to be licensed in both
42 disciplines of prosthetics and orthotics as licensed
43 prosthetist-orthotists and for the licensure of orthotist assistants,
44 prosthetist assistants, and prosthetist-orthotist assistants.

45 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.4)

1 3. Section 9 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-9) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 9. The board shall have the following duties:

4 a. To establish minimum requirements for orthotist, prosthetist and
5 ~~prosthetist-orthotist licenses and for orthotist assistant, prosthetist~~
6 ~~assistant and prosthetist-orthotist assistant licenses;~~

7 b. To establish standards, guidelines, and procedures for the
8 completion of clinical internships;

9 c. To evaluate the qualifications of all applicants for licensure as
10 orthotists, prosthetists and prosthetist-orthotists ~~and as orthotist~~
11 ~~assistants, prosthetist assistants and prosthetist-orthotist assistants;~~

12 d. To supervise the examination of applicants;

13 e. To establish basic requirements for continuing education; and

14 f. To take any actions at the chairperson's request which may be
15 necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this act.

16 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.9)

17

18 4. Section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-11) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 11. To be eligible for a license to practice orthotics or prosthetics
21 in this State, an individual shall ²~~be a legal resident of this State and~~
22 ~~shall~~¹:²:

23 a. (1) Possess a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an
24 accredited college or university approved by the ~~Department of~~
25 ~~Commission on~~ Higher Education;

26 ~~b. Have the amount of formal training, including any hours of~~
27 ~~classroom education and clinical practice, in any areas of study as the~~
28 ~~board deems necessary and appropriate;~~

29 c. Complete a clinical internship in the professional area for which
30 a license is sought in accordance with any standards, guidelines, or
31 procedures for clinical internships inside or outside this State
32 established by the board;

33 d. Pass all written, practical and oral examinations, which shall be
34 approved and required by the board and which shall be administered
35 at least once each year.]

36 ~~(2) Complete a clinical internship in the professional area for which~~
37 ~~a license is sought of not less than 1900 hours under the supervision~~
38 ~~of a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as the case may be; and~~

39 ~~(3) ²Hold current certification in orthotics or prosthetics from a~~
40 ~~program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying~~
41 ~~Agencies (NCCA)] Pass all written, practical and oral examinations,~~
42 ~~which shall be approved and required by the board and which shall be~~
43 ~~administered at least once each year²; or~~

44 b. (1) Complete a clinical ¹~~internship~~ practice¹ in the
45 professional area for which a license is sought of not less than ¹~~3800~~

1 1900¹ hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or
2 prosthetist, as the case may be: ¹[and]¹

3 (2) ²[Hold current certification in orthotics or prosthetics from a
4 program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying
5 Agencies (NCCA)¹] Pass all written, practical and oral examinations,
6 which shall be approved and required by the board and which shall be
7 administered at least once each year²; and

8 (3) Possess an associate's degree in science from an accredited
9 college or university approved by the Commission on Higher
10 Education with satisfactory completion of course work in biology,
11 anatomy and physiology, physics and chemistry¹.

12 The standards and requirements for licensure established by the
13 board shall be substantially equal to or in excess of standards
14 commonly accepted in the fields of orthotics and prosthetics.

15 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.11)

16

17 5. Section 12 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-12) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 12. a. Any person who **[has]** practiced full-time for the **[past]**
20 **[five]** three years immediately prior to the effective date of this
21 amendatory and supplementary act in an established
22 prosthetic-orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist, or
23 prosthetist-orthotist **[as of the effective date of this act]** may file an
24 application with the board within 180 days **[of the effective date of**
25 **this act in order]** after the date procedures are established by the
26 board for applying for licensure to continue to practice orthotics or
27 prosthetics under the provisions of this act. The applicant may obtain
28 a license to practice orthotics or prosthetics under the provisions of
29 this act **[without taking an examination, as required in subsection d.**
30 **of section 11 of this act,]** ²without taking an examination, as required
31 in section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-11),² upon receipt of
32 payment of the licensing fee required pursuant to section 21 of this act
33 and after the board has completed an investigation into the applicant's
34 work history. The board shall complete its investigation for the
35 purposes of this section within six months of the date of receipt of the
36 application.

37 b. For 360 days after the date procedures are established by the
38 board for applying for licensure, any person who has practiced full-
39 time for not less than three years prior to the effective date of this
40 amendatory and supplementary act in an established prosthetic-
41 orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist or prosthetist-orthotist and
42 who has ¹[satisfactorily completed a certificate program] passed a
43 certifying examination¹ in orthotics or prosthetics ¹[accredited] which
44 has been approved¹ by ³a program accredited by ³the National
45 Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) may obtain a license to

1 ~~practice orthotics or prosthetics without satisfying the requirements of~~
2 ~~subsection a. or b. of section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-11).~~
3 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.12)

4
5 6. Section 13 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-13) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 13. The board shall issue a license to practice orthotics or
8 prosthetics ~~or act as an orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant or~~
9 ~~prosthetist-orthotist assistant~~ to all applicants who meet the
10 qualifications established pursuant to this act. Licenses shall be
11 effective for a two-year period and may be renewed biennially.

12 Licensure shall be granted independently in orthotics or prosthetics.
13 An individual may be licensed in both disciplines if that person meets
14 the standards set forth by the board.

15 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.13)

16
17 7. Section 17 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-17) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 17. No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or hold himself
20 or itself out as being able to practice orthotics or prosthetics ~~or act as~~
21 ~~an orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist~~
22 ~~assistant~~ in this State unless that person is licensed in accordance with
23 the provisions of this act.

24 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.17)

25
26 8. Section 18 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-18) is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 18. The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

29 a. The activities and services of any person who is licensed to
30 practice medicine and surgery, dentistry or podiatry by this State;

31 b. The activities and services of a student, fellow, or trainee in
32 orthotics or prosthetics pursuing a course of study at an accredited
33 college or university, or working in a recognized training center or
34 research facility, if these activities and services constitute a part of his
35 course of study under a supervisor licensed pursuant to this act;

36 c. The ~~design, modification, fabrication and application of upper~~
37 ~~extremity adaptive equipment, finger splints and hand splints by an~~
38 ~~occupational therapist or [the use of generic braces for evaluation~~
39 ~~purposes by] a licensed physical therapist [when such bracing is for~~
40 ~~a term of less than three months and the braces do not become the~~
41 ~~patient's property]; [or]~~

42 d. ~~The provision of corsets and soft cervical collars by licensed~~
43 ~~physical therapists;~~

44 e. ~~The provision of lower extremity orthotics made of fabric,~~
45 ~~canvas, neoprene or elastic with or without metal or plastic insertable~~
46 ~~or removable hinges or stays by licensed physical therapists;~~

1 f. The provision by a licensed physical therapist of any lower
2 extremity, low temperature splint or ankle foot orthotic when such
3 bracing is for the evaluation or treatment of an adult patient for less
4 than three months or a pediatric patient for less than one year without
5 the consultation of a licensed orthotist and when the braces do not
6 become the patient's property;

7 g. The provision of any off-the-shelf ankle foot orthosis made of
8 fabric, canvas, neoprene, elastic with or without metal or plastic
9 inserts and any off-the-shelf posterior leaf ankle foot orthosis by a
10 licensed physical therapist;

11 h. The management of lower extremity prosthetic volumetric
12 changes by a licensed physical therapist. Any non-reversible changes
13 shall be addressed by the treating licensed physical therapist only after
14 direct consultation with the treating prosthetist; or

15 i. The activities and services of a certified pedorthist; except that
16 this subsection shall not prevent any certified pedorthist from applying
17 for and obtaining a license under the provisions of P.L.1991, c.512
18 (C.45:12B-1 et seq.) limiting that person's practice of orthotics and
19 prosthetics to the ankle and below. As used in this subsection:
20 "certified pedorthist" means a person certified by the American Board
21 for Certification in Pedorthics, or its successor, in the design,
22 manufacture, fit and modification of shoes and related foot appliances
23 from the ankle and below as prescribed by a licensed doctor of
24 medicine or podiatry for the amelioration of painful or disabling
25 conditions of the foot; and "foot appliances" includes, but is not
26 limited to, prosthetic fillers and orthotic appliances for use from the
27 ankle and below.

28 (cf: P.L.1992, c.134, s.1)

29

30 9. Section 20 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-20) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 20. ²a. Every licensed practitioner of orthotics, prosthetics, or
33 both, shall maintain an office in this State.

34 b.² Every licensed practitioner of orthotics, prosthetics, or both,
35 and every licensed orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant, and
36 prosthetist-orthotist assistant in this State shall notify the board of the
37 practitioner's or assistant's office address. Every practitioner and
38 assistant shall promptly notify the board of any change of office
39 address. The board shall annually publish complete lists of the names
40 and office addresses of all orthotists, prosthetists and
41 prosthetist-orthotists, and all orthotist assistants, prosthetist assistants
42 and prosthetist-orthotist assistants, licensed and practicing or assisting
43 licensed practitioners in this State.

44 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.20)

45

46 10. (New section) To be eligible for licensure as an orthotist

- 1 assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist assistant, an
2 individual shall submit satisfactory evidence to the board that he:
- 3 a. Is at least 18 years of age;
4 b. Is of good moral character;
5 c. ¹~~Has completed formal training, including any hours of~~
6 ~~classroom education in any areas of study as the board deems~~
7 ~~necessary and appropriate; and~~
8 d. Passes all written, practical and oral examinations, which shall
9 be approved and required by the board and which shall be administered
10 at least once each year] ²~~Is a legal resident of this State;~~
11 d.]² ~~Possesses a high school diploma or its equivalent;~~
12 ²~~[e.] d. Has completed not less than 40 hours of a formal training~~
13 ~~program in orthotics or prosthetics in the case of an individual seeking~~
14 ~~licensure as an orthotist assistant or prosthetist assistant, as the case~~
15 ~~may be, or not less than 80 hours of a formal training program in the~~
16 ~~case of an individual seeking licensure as a prosthetist-orthotist~~
17 ~~assistant;~~
18 ²~~[f.] e. Has completed 1900 hours of clinical practice in the~~
19 ~~professional area in which a license is sought under the supervision of~~
20 ~~a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as the case may be; and~~
21 ²~~[g. Has passed a certifying examination for orthotist assistants or~~
22 ~~prosthetist assistants, as the case may be, which has been approved by~~
23 ~~the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)]¹ f. Has
24 ~~passed all written, practical and oral examinations, which shall be~~
25 ~~approved and required by the board for the examination of assistants~~
26 ~~and which shall be administered at least once each year².~~
27
28 11. This act shall take effect immediately.~~
-

ASSEMBLY CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND REGULATED
PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 415

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 7, 1998

The Assembly Consumer Affairs and Regulated Professions Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 415.

As amended, this bill specifies that to be eligible to practice orthotics or prosthetics in this State, an individual shall: either possess a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university approved by the Commission on Higher Education, complete a clinical internship in the professional area for which a license is sought of not less than 1900 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as the case may be, and hold current certification in orthotics or prosthetics from a program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA); or complete a clinical practice in the professional area for which a license is sought of not less than 1900 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as the case may be, hold current certification in orthotics or prosthetics from a program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), and possess an associate's degree in science from an accredited college or university approved by the Commission on Higher Education with satisfactory completion of course work in biology, anatomy and physiology, physics and chemistry.

The bill extends the "grandfather" provision contained in P.L.1991, c.512, based on the date procedures are established by the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners for applying for licensure as an orthotist, prosthetist or prosthetist-orthotist. The bill also provides that for 360 days after the date procedures are established by the board for applying for licensure, any person who has practiced full-time for not less than three years prior to the effective date of the bill in an established prosthetic-orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist, or prosthetist-orthotist and who has passed a certifying examination in orthotics or prosthetics which has been approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) may obtain a license to practice orthotics or prosthetics without satisfying the licensing

requirements contained in section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-11).

In addition, the bill establishes a new category of licensed orthotist assistants, prosthetist assistants and prosthetist-orthotist assistants. These individuals shall assist and be under the supervision of licensed orthotists, prosthetists, and prosthetist-orthotists, as the case may be.

The committee amended the bill to stipulate that an individual who may qualify under the "grandfather" provisions contained in P.L.1991, c.512 would be required to pass a certifying examination in orthotics or prosthetics which has been approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This replaces the original provision in the bill requiring such an individual to satisfactorily complete a certificate program in orthotics or prosthetics accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

The amendments also change one of the sets of requirements by which an individual can become eligible to practice orthotics or prosthetics in this State. As provided in the amendments, one route for an individual to become eligible for licensure requires: completion of a clinical practice in the professional area for which a license is sought of not more than 1900 hours; holding current certification in orthotics or prosthetics from a program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies; and possessing an associate's degree in science. These amendments added the requirement of an associate's degree in science and changed the bill's original provision which required 3800 hours of a clinical internship to 1900 hours of clinical practice. The amendments also provide that to be eligible to practice orthotics or prosthetics in this State an individual must be a legal resident of New Jersey.

Furthermore, the amendments revise some of the criteria and establish additional criteria that are required in order to be licensed as an orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist assistant. These include: being a legal resident of this State; possessing a high school diploma or its equivalent; completing a formal training program; completing 1900 hours of clinical practice; and passing a certifying examination for orthotist assistants or prosthetist assistants, as the case may be, which has been approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1998 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 415

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 19, 1998

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 415 (1R).

This bill, as amended by the committee, specifies that to be eligible to practice orthotics or prosthetics in this State, an individual shall either: (1) possess a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university approved by the Commission on Higher Education, complete a clinical internship in the professional area for which a license is sought of not less than 1900 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as the case may be, and pass all examinations which are approved and required by the board; or (2) complete a clinical practice in the professional area for which a license is sought of not less than 1900 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or prosthetist, as the case may be, pass all examinations which are approved and required by the board, and possess an associate's degree in science from an accredited college or university approved by the Commission on Higher Education, with satisfactory completion of course work in biology, anatomy and physiology, physics and chemistry. The current law provides that to be eligible to practice orthotics or prosthetics an individual must possess a bachelor's degree, have certain hours of classroom education and clinical practice in certain areas, complete a clinical internship and pass an examination.

In addition, the bill establishes new categories of licensed orthotist assistants, prosthetist assistants and prosthetist-orthotist assistants. These individuals shall assist and be under the supervision of licensed orthotists, prosthetists, or prosthetist-orthotists, as the case may be. The bill establishes criteria that are required in order to be licensed as an orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist assistant. These include: being at least 18 years of age and of good moral character; possessing a high school diploma or its equivalent; completing a formal training program of not less than 40 hours in orthotics or prosthetics in the case of an individual seeking licensure as an orthotist assistant or prosthetist assistant and of not less than 80

hours in the case of a person seeking licensure as a prosthetist-orthotist assistant; completing 1900 hours of clinical practice; and passing all examinations for assistants which are approved and required by the board.

The bill extends the "grandfather" provision contained in P.L.1991, c.512, based on the date procedures are established by the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners for applying for licensure as an orthotist, prosthetist or prosthetist-orthotist. The bill also provides that for 360 days after the date procedures are established by the board for applying for licensure, any person who has practiced full-time for not less than three years prior to the effective date of the bill in an established prosthetic-orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist, or prosthetist-orthotist and who has passed a certifying examination in orthotics or prosthetics which has been approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) may obtain a license to practice orthotics or prosthetics without satisfying the licensing requirements contained in section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-11).

Finally, the bill reconciles this law and the physical therapists' licensing law to clarify that physical therapists (and in some cases occupational therapists) will be able to perform certain services provided by orthotists and prosthetists.

The committee amended the bill to eliminate the residency requirement for licensure; to require that an applicant for licensure must pass all examinations which are approved and required by the board; and to require every licensed practitioner of orthotics, prosthetics, or both, to maintain an office in this State.

As amended, this bill is identical to Senate, No.1165 (1R).

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 415

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed By Senator SINGER)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 10, 1998

This amendment makes a technical change in the grandfather provisions of the bill. The bill provides that a person could be grandfathered in as a licensed practitioner upon passing a certifying examination which has been approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. However, that agency does not approve certifying examinations and the bill is therefore amended to provide for an examination which has been approved by a program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 415
(THIRD REPRINT)**

To the Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 415 (Third Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

A. Summary of Bill

This bill sets up two methods for licensure for orthotists and prosthetists. An orthotist is an allied health professional who is trained to provide or manage the provision of a custom designed, fabricated, or fitted device to correct physiological disorders. A prosthetist is an allied health professional who is trained to custom design, fabricate or fit a device to replace an absent external limb.

The first method requires obtaining a bachelor's degree, completing a clinical internship of not less than 1900 hours, and passing all written, practical and oral examinations required by the Orthotists and Prosthetists Board of Examiners ("board"). The second method requires an associate's degree in science with course work in biology, anatomy and physiology, physics and chemistry, completing a clinical practice of not less than 1900 hours, and passing all written, practical and oral examinations required by the board.

The current licensure statute requires orthotists and prosthetists to possess a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in any subject area, have an amount of formal training, including classroom education and clinical practice as deemed appropriate by the board, and pass all written, practical and oral examinations approved by the board.

The bill establishes two grandfather provisions. The first applies to people who have practiced full-time in an established prosthetic-orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist or prosthetist-orthotist for the three years immediately prior to the effective date of the bill. Such a person may file an application with the board within 180 days after the date procedures are established by the board for applying for licensure to continue to practice. The applicant may obtain a license without taking an examination after paying the license fee established by this bill and after the board has completed an investigation into the applicant's work history.

The second grandfather provision applies to people who have practiced in the same manner for three years or more, but not necessarily the three years immediately prior to the effective date of the bill, and have also passed a certifying examination in orthotics or prosthetics approved by a program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. The bill provides that such a person may obtain a license without satisfying either of the methods for licensure described above, i.e. without an associate's or

1 for and obtaining a license under the provisions of P.L.1991, c.512
2 (C.45:12B-1 et seq.) limiting that person's practice of orthotics and
3 prosthetics to the ankle and below. As used in this subsection:
4 "certified pedorthist" means a person certified by the American Board
5 for Certification in Pedorthics, or its successor, in the design,
6 manufacture, fit and modification of shoes and related foot appliances
7 from the ankle and below as prescribed by a licensed doctor of
8 medicine or podiatry for the amelioration of painful or disabling
9 conditions of the foot; and "foot appliances" includes, but is not
10 limited to, prosthetic fillers and orthotic appliances for use from the
11 ankle and below.

12 (cf: P.L.1992, c.134, s.1)

13

14 9. Section 20 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-20) is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 20. Every licensed practitioner of orthotics, prosthetics, or both,
17 and every licensed orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant, and
18 prosthetist-orthotist assistant in this State shall notify the board of the
19 practitioner's or assistant's office address. Every practitioner and
20 assistant shall promptly notify the board of any change of office
21 address. The board shall annually publish complete lists of the names
22 and office addresses of all orthotists, prosthetists and
23 prosthetist-orthotists, and all orthotist assistants, prosthetist assistants
24 and prosthetist-orthotist assistants, licensed and practicing or assisting
25 licensed practitioners in this State.

26 (cf: P.L.1991, c.512, s.20)

27

28 10. (New section) To be eligible for licensure as an orthotist
29 assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist assistant, an
30 individual shall submit satisfactory evidence to the board that he:

31 a. Is at least 18 years of age;

32 b. Is of good moral character;

33 c. Has completed formal training, including any hours of classroom
34 education in any areas of study as the board deems necessary and
35 appropriate; and

36 d. Passes all written, practical and oral examinations, which shall
37 be approved and required by the board and which shall be administered
38 at least once each year.

39

40 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

44

45 This bill specifies that to be eligible to practice orthotics or
46 prosthetics in this State, an individual shall: either possess a bachelor's

A415 MORAN, IMPREVEDUTO

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1 degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university
2 approved by the Commission on Higher Education, complete a clinical
3 internship in the professional area for which a license is sought of not
4 less than 1900 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or
5 prosthetist, as the case may be, and hold current certification in
6 orthotics or prosthetics from a program accredited by the National
7 Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA); or complete a clinical
8 internship in the professional area for which a license is sought of not
9 less than 3800 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or
10 prosthetist, as the case may be, and hold current certification in
11 orthotics or prosthetics from a program accredited by the National
12 Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

13 The bill extends the "grandfather" provision contained in P.L.1991,
14 c.512, based on the date procedures are established by the Orthotics
15 and Prosthetics Board of Examiners for applying for licensure as an
16 orthotist, prosthetist or prosthetist-orthotist. The bill also provides
17 that for 360 days after the date procedures are established by the
18 board for applying for licensure, any person who has practiced full-
19 time for not less than three years prior to the effective date of the bill
20 in an established prosthetic-orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist,
21 or prosthetist-orthotist and who has satisfactorily completed a
22 certificate program in orthotics or prosthetics accredited by the
23 National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) may obtain a
24 license to practice orthotics or prosthetics without satisfying the
25 licensing requirements contained in section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512
26 (C.45:12B-11).

27 Finally, the bill establishes a new category of licensed orthotist
28 assistants, prosthetist assistants and prosthetist-orthotist assistants.
29 These individuals shall assist and be under the supervision of licensed
30 orthotists, prosthetists, and prosthetist-orthotists, as the case may be.

1 g. Has passed a certifying examination for orthotist assistants or
2 prosthetist assistants, as the case may be, which has been approved by
3 the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

4
5 11. This act shall take effect immediately.
6
7

8 STATEMENT
9

10 This bill specifies that to be eligible to practice orthotics or
11 prosthetics in this State, an individual shall: either possess a bachelor's
12 degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university
13 approved by the Commission on Higher Education, complete a clinical
14 internship in the professional area for which a license is sought of not
15 less than 1900 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or
16 prosthetist, as the case may be, and hold current certification in
17 orthotics or prosthetics from a program accredited by the National
18 Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA); or complete a clinical
19 practice in the professional area for which a license is sought of not
20 less than 1900 hours under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or
21 prosthetist, as the case may be, hold current certification in orthotics
22 or prosthetics from a program accredited by the National Commission
23 for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), and possess an associate's degree in
24 science from an accredited college or university approved by the
25 Commission on Higher Education with satisfactory completion of
26 course work in biology, anatomy and physiology, physics and
27 chemistry. The bill also provides that to be eligible to practice
28 orthotics or prosthetics in this State an individual must be a legal
29 resident of New Jersey.

30 In addition, the bill establishes a new category of licensed orthotist
31 assistants, prosthetist assistants and prosthetist-orthotist assistants.
32 These individuals shall assist and be under the supervision of licensed
33 orthotists, prosthetists, and prosthetist-orthotists, as the case may be.
34 The bill establishes criteria that are required in order to be licensed as
35 an orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist
36 assistant. These include: being a legal resident of this State;
37 possessing a high school diploma or its equivalent; completing a
38 formal training program; completing 1900 hours of clinical practice;
39 and passing a certifying examination for orthotist assistants or
40 prosthetist assistants, as the case may be, which has been approved by
41 the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

42 The bill extends the "grandfather" provision contained in P.L.1991,
43 c.512, based on the date procedures are established by the Orthotics
44 and Prosthetics Board of Examiners for applying for licensure as an
45 orthotist, prosthetist or prosthetist-orthotist. The bill also provides
46 that for 360 days after the date procedures are established by the

1 board for applying for licensure, any person who has practiced full-
2 time for not less than three years prior to the effective date of the bill
3 in an established prosthetic-orthotic facility as an orthotist, prosthetist,
4 or prosthetist-orthotist and who has passed a certifying examination
5 in orthotics or prosthetics which has been approved by the National
6 Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) may obtain a license to
7 practice orthotics or prosthetics without satisfying the licensing
8 requirements contained in section 11 of P.L.1991, c.512 (C.45:12B-
9 11).

10 Finally, the bill stipulates that an individual who may qualify under
11 the "grandfather" provisions contained in P.L.1991, c.512 would be
12 required to pass a certifying examination in orthotics or prosthetics
13 which has been approved by the National Commission for Certifying
14 Agencies (NCCA). This replaces the current requirement that an
15 individual must satisfactorily complete a certificate program in
16 orthotics or prosthetics accredited by the National Commission for
17 Certifying Agencies.