

## **Alabama Law Title 34-25A-1-14**

Section 34-25A-1 Purpose. Section 34-25A-2 Short title. Section 34-25A-3 Definitions.

Section 34-25A-4 Referral and consultation limits. Section 34-25A-5 Application for licensure or registration. Section 34-25A-6 Disciplinary actions.

Section 34-25A-7 Duties of board.

Section 34-25A-8 Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists. Section 34-25A-9 Membership of board.

Section 34-25A-10 Alabama State Board of Orthotists and Prosthetists Fund. Section 34-25A-11 Issuance of license or registration; renewal.

Section 34-25A-12 Fees. Section 34-25A-13 Violations.

Section 34-25A-13.1 Mastectomy fitters.

Section 34-25A-14 Applicability of Ethics Law; Sunset Law.

### **Section 34-25A-1**

#### **Purpose**

The Legislature declares that in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Alabama against the unauthorized, unqualified, and improper administration of prosthetic and orthotic care, it is necessary to provide for the licensing and regulation of persons offering prosthetic and orthotic services to the public.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §1.)*

### **Section 34-25A-2**

#### **Short title**

This chapter shall be known as the Prosthetics and Orthotics Act.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §2.)*

### **Section 34-25A-3**

#### **Definitions**

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. The requirements may include custom and non-custom items the board may determine are necessary to perform quality care and are typical in the course of business.
- (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 or authorized to practice podiatry pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 34-24-230) of Chapter 24.
- (4) **BOARD.** The Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists.
- (5) **CHIROPRACTOR.** A person licensed and acting 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 national programs approved by the state board.
- (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) **ORTHOISIS.** A custom-fabricated or custom fitted 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. A custom-fitted orthosis is an orthotic device that is required to be assembled or modified, or both, by a person licensed under this chapter for a specific patient in order to achieve proper fit, comfort, and function for the specific patient. Except for the treatment of scoliosis, orthosis does not include direct-formed or off the shelf orthotic devices, as defined in this subdivision and does not include any of the following items: 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. An off the shelf orthotic device is an orthotic device that is manufactured as a commercially available item designed for any patient to be self-adjusting without the need for assembly or modification for the specific patient by anyone other than the patient. Direct-formed orthoses are devices formed or shaped during the molding process directly on the patient's body or body segment.
- (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 national programs approved by the state board.
- (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.

(11) ORTHOTIC SUPPLIER. A person registered 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.

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

(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.

(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, custom or non-custom, addresses a medical condition of the foot below the ankle and is prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner.

(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.

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

(17) PHYSICAL THERAPIST/PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT/PHYSICAL THERAPIST TECHNICIAN. A person who is licensed

to practice as defined in Section 34-24-191.

(18) PHYSICIAN. A person who is a Doctor of Medicine or a doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice.

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

(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.

- (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 restore function or cosmesis, or both. Involved in the practice of prosthetics is observational gait analysis and clinical assessment of the requirements necessary to refine 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 evaluation, consultation, and providing continuing patient care in order to assess the effect of the prosthetic device on the patient's tissues and to assure proper fit and function of the prosthetic device.
- (22) PROSTHETIST. A person who is licensed to practice prosthetics under this chapter.
- (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.
- (24) PROSTHETIST/ORTHOTIST. A person licensed to practice prosthetics and orthotics under this chapter.
- (25) THERAPEUTIC SHOE FITTER. A health care professional who is licensed by the board and 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.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §3; Act 2003-275, p. 645, §1; Act 2006-302, p. 628, §1; Act 2009-300, p. 510, §1; Act 2011-553, p.*

*1022, §1; Act 2013-422, §2; Act 2022-129; Act 2023-326, §1. )*

#### **Section 34-25A-4**

##### **Referral and consultation limits.**

- (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 orthoses. An orthotic supplier may provide orthoses in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, physician's offices, physician's clinics, or other sites as required. An orthotic supplier shall provide orthoses based on a written prescription from an authorized health care practitioner and under the supervision of such authorized health care practitioner.
  
- (d) No person licensed under this chapter shall provide services to a patient without being in the physical presence of the patient.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §4; Act 2013-422, §2.)*

### **Section 34-25A-5**

#### **Application for licensure or registration.**

- (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 national certifying board in orthotics or prosthetics approved by the state board.

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, certified/licensed orthotist, or a certified/licensed prosthetist/orthotist in an accredited facility, and be certified by a national certifying board in prosthetics or orthotics approved by the state board.

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 national certifying board in prosthetics or orthotics approved by the state 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 national certifying board approved by the state board.

(2) Any applicant after the first year following the board's issuance of applications shall meet the requirements 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 Prosthetist 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 Prosthetist with a national certifying board approved by the state board.

(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 the Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification as a 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 use, in connection with his or her name, the words licensed orthotist, orthotist, licensed prosthetist, prosthetist, licensed prosthetist/orthotist, prosthetist/orthotist, licensed Pedorthist, Pedorthist, licensed orthotic fitter, orthotic fitter, licensed mastectomy fitter, mastectomy fitter, licensed therapeutic shoe fitter, therapeutic shoe fitter, or letters "L.O.," "L.P.," "L.P.O.," "L.O.A.," "LPed," "L.P.A.," "L.P.O.A.," "L.M.F.," "L.O.F.," "L.T.S.F.", or other letters, words, signs, numbers, or insignia indicating or implying that he or she is either a licensed prosthetist, a licensed orthotist, a licensed prosthetist/orthotist, a licensed Pedorthist, a licensed mastectomy fitter, a licensed therapeutic shoe fitter, or a licensed orthotic fitter in the State of Alabama without first having a valid license. The license shall be posted in a conspicuous location at the person's work site.
- (i) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit or restrict the following:
- (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, Doctor 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, orthotic fitter, therapeutic shoe fitter, or Pedorthist in accordance with this chapter who is employed in a hospital, rehabilitation facility, or authorized health care practitioner's office under the direction of an authorized health care practitioner.

(4) A person fulfilling the supervised residency or internship experience requirements described in this chapter.

(5) The practice of prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics by a clinician who is certified or licensed in another state at meetings of the Alabama Prosthetic & Orthotic Association (APOA) or similar organizations or at training events approved by the board to provide clinical services performed by a certified or licensed clinician. (6) The practice of pharmacy by an individual subject to Chapter 23 of this title.

***(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, Â§5; Act 2003-275, p. 649, Â§1; Act 2006-302, p. 628, Â§1; Act 2009-300, p. 510, Â§1; Act 2010-***

***145, p. 206, Â§3; Act 2011-553, p. 1022, Â§1; Act 2013-422, p. 1680, Â§2; Act 2015-68, Â§1; Act 2018-151, §1; Act 2018-159, §1; Act 2023-326, §1.)***

### **Section 34-25A-6**

#### **Disciplinary actions**

(a) The board may invoke disciplinary action as outlined in subsection (b) whenever it establishes to the satisfaction of the board, after a hearing as provided in Sections 41-22-1 through 41-22-17, the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, that any person or entity to whom a license, registration, accreditation, or renewal thereof has been issued is guilty of any of the following:

- (1) Fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining any license, registration, accreditation, or renewal thereof or money or other thing of value.
- (2) Gross immorality.
- (3) Being an habitual user of intoxicants or drugs rendering the person unfit for the practice of prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics.
- (4) Conviction of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
- (5) Gross negligence in the practice of prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics.
- (6) Employing, allowing, or permitting any unlicensed person to perform any work in his or her office or facility which, under this chapter, may only be legally performed by a person holding a required license or registration.
- (7) Violating any rule adopted by the board.



- (8) Violating any provision of this chapter.
- (9) Has had his or her license or registration to practice prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics or accreditation from another state subject to discipline for acts similar to those described in this subsection. A certified copy of the discipline from the state imposing the same shall be conclusive evidence thereof.
- (10) Irregularities in billing an insurance company or other third-party payor for services rendered. Irregularities shall include reporting charges for the purpose of obtaining a total payment in excess of that usually received for the services rendered, falsely reporting treatment dates for the purpose of obtaining payments, falsely reporting charges for services not rendered, or falsely reporting services rendered for the purpose of obtaining payment.
- (11) Unprofessional conduct as defined by rule of the board.
- (b) When the board finds any person or entity to whom a license, registration, accreditation, or renewal thereof is issued guilty of any of the grounds set forth in subsection (a), it may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:
- (1) Refuse to issue or deny any license, registration, accreditation, or renewal thereof.
  - (2) Revoke or suspend any license, registration, accreditation, or renewal thereof issued or required by the board.
  - (3) Enter a censure.
  - (4) Enter an order fixing a period of probation best adapted to protect the public health and safety and for rehabilitation.
  - (5) Impose an administrative fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each count or separate offense.
  - (6) Impose the costs of any investigation or disciplinary proceeding.
  - (7) Impose restrictions on the scope of practice.
  - (8) Impose peer review or professional education requirements.
- (c) Failure to comply with any final or consent order of the board, including, but not limited to, an order of censure or probation, is cause for suspension or revocation.

## **Section 34-25A-7**

### **Duties of board**

The board shall perform all the following duties:

- (1) Establish and publish continuing education requirements for persons licensed in this chapter.
- (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.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §7; Act 2006-159, p. 232, §3; Act 2006-302, p. 628, §1; Act 2009-300, p. 510, §1; Act 2011-553,*

*p. 1022, §1; Act 2013-422, §2.)*

## **Section 34-25A-8**

### **Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists.**

(a) Effective October 1, 2009, the existing Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists is abolished. Notwithstanding the foregoing, members on the board serving on October 1, 2009, shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed. Effective October 1, 2009, a new Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists is created to administer this chapter and shall be composed of nine members as provided in this section who shall be compensated at the rate of one hundred dollars (\$100) per day plus travel expenses for each day they perform their duties. The board membership shall reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban and rural, and economic diversity of the state and each member of the board shall be a citizen of this state. The Attorney General of the state shall act as legal advisor of the board and shall render such legal assistance as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

(b) After October 1, 2009, members shall be appointed as follows:

(1) Three by the Governor of the State of Alabama two of whom shall be appointed for four- year initial terms and one of whom shall be appointed to a one-year initial term, one of whom shall be licensed pursuant to this chapter; one of whom shall be a private citizen of the State of Alabama who is a consumer of orthotic or prosthetic services; and one of whom shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Alabama.

(2) Two by the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Alabama one for an initial term of four (4) years and one for an initial term of two (2) years, both of whom shall be licensed pursuant to this chapter.

(3) Two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Alabama for initial terms of three (3) years, one of whom is a podiatrist licensed to practice in the State of Alabama and one of whom shall be licensed pursuant to this chapter.

(4) One by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate of the State of Alabama for an initial term of two (2) years, who shall be licensed pursuant to this chapter.

(5) One by the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives of the State of Alabama for an initial term of one year who shall be licensed pursuant to this chapter.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §8; Act 2003-275, p. 649, §1; Act 2006-302, p. 628, §1; Act 2009-300, §1; Act 2010-145; Act 2023-326, §1.)*

## **Section 34-25A-9**

### **Membership of board.**

(a) Regarding the board created by Act 2009-300, initial appointments shall be staggered such that two members are appointed for one year, two members are appointed for two years, and two members appointed for three years, and three (3) members are appointed for four (4) years. Thereafter all members shall be appointed for four (4) year terms. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, provided, no member shall serve more than eight consecutive years or two consecutive terms, whichever is greater. This legislation shall not include their initial terms, and no hold-over term, under §34-25A-8(a), shall exceed twelve (12) months.

(b) Upon the expiration of the initial terms and all terms of office thereafter, the appointing authorities shall appoint successors for terms of four years each. A quorum shall consist of five members.

- (c) The board may employ an executive director and such other officers and employees it deems necessary, with or without regard to the state Merit System, and may set the salary and terms of employment for such officers and employees.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §9; Act 2009-300, §1.)*

#### **Section 34-25A-10**

##### **Alabama State Board of Orthotists and Prosthetists Fund.**

There is established a separate special revenue trust fund in the State Treasury to be known as the Alabama State Board

of Orthotists and Prosthetists Fund. All receipts and administrative fines collected by the board pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in the fund and used only to implement and administer this chapter. The receipts shall be disbursed only by warrant of the state Comptroller, upon itemized vouchers approved by the executive director, if one is provided, otherwise by the chairperson of the board. Funds shall be withdrawn or expended pursuant to Sections 41-4-80 to 41-4-96, inclusive, and 41-19-1 to 41-19-12, inclusive, and only in amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations bill or other appropriations bills.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §10.)*

#### **Section 34-25A-11**

##### **Issuance of license or registration; renewal**

- (a) The board shall issue a license or registration to any person who meets the qualifications required by this chapter and who pays the respective fees fixed by the board.
- (b) Any person who is issued a license as an orthotic, prosthetic, or prosthetic/orthotic practitioner or orthotic assistant, prosthetic assistant, or prosthetic/orthotic assistant under this chapter may use the words licensed orthotist, licensed prosthetist, licensed prosthetist/orthotist, licensed orthotist assistant, licensed prosthetist assistant, or licensed prosthetist/orthotist assistant, or the letters "L.O.," "L.P.," "L.P.O.," "L.O.A.," "LPed," "L.P.A.," "L.P.O.A.," "L.M.F.," "L.O.F.," "C.M.F.," "L.C.M.F," or "L.T.S.F." in connection with his or her name to denote his or her licensure. Any person issued a license as an orthotic supplier under this chapter may use the words licensed orthotic supplier or the letters "R.O.S." in connection with his or her name to denote his or her registration.
- (c) A license or registration issued under this chapter shall be subject to annual or semiannual renewal as prescribed by rule or regulation duly promulgated and published by the board.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §11; Act 2013-422, §2.)*

#### **Section 34-25A-12**

## **Fees**

- (a) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations for all licensure fees, registration fees, renewal fees, and accreditation fees. The application fee for licensure as an orthotist, prosthetist, orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant, prosthetist/orthotist, or Pedorthist shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) and the application fee for registration as an orthotic supplier shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The application fee for accreditation shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) per facility. The licensure fee shall not exceed nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950) per discipline per term of license. The accreditation fee shall not exceed nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950) per term for each accredited facility. Registration fees and renewal fees shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) per term of registration or renewal, and all other associated assistant fees shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per term of license.
- (b) Maximum fees as defined in subsection (a) may be exceeded when a late renewal fee is authorized or imposed by the board.
- (c) The board may prescribe by rule that individuals who due to age or physical disability are unable to practice, who have retired from the practice, who are licensed in the state but are practicing out of state, or who are on temporary active duty with any of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be allowed to pay a renewal fee in an amount less than the amount paid by individuals in current practice. The amount shall be established by the board.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §12; Act 2003-275, p. 649, §1; Act 2006-302, p. 628, §1; Act 2009-300, §1, Act 2011-553.)*

## **Section 34-25A-13**

### **Violations**

- (a) Any person who practices prosthetics, orthotics, or pedorthics without first having obtained from the board a license, registration, or renewal thereof shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.
- (b) The board may, in its own name, bring an action in circuit court for an injunction, and the court may enjoin any person from violating any provision of this chapter.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §13; Act 2009-300, §1.)*

## **Section 34-25A-13.1**

### **Mastectomy fitters**

Nothing in this chapter shall authorize a mastectomy fitter to engage in the practice of medicine; to diagnose, treat, or cure any human disease, illness, ailment, infirmity, pain, or other medical conditions; to perform surgery of any type or description; or to prescribe any drug or medical device.

*(Act 2009-300, §2.)*

## **Section 34-25A-14**

### **Applicability of Ethics Law; Sunset Law**

(a) The members of the board and all employees of the board shall be subject to the State Ethics Law, Sections 36-25-1 to 36-25-30, inclusive.

(b) The board shall be subject to the Alabama Sunset Law of 1981, and shall be classified as an enumerated agency pursuant to Section 41-20-3. The board shall automatically terminate on October 1, 2006, unless continued as therein provided and, if continued, the board shall be reviewed every four years thereafter.

*(Act 2002-527, p. 1376, §15.)*