

16-103.

(a) All OSSEOUS surgical procedures of the ankle ~~below the level of the dermis~~, arthrodeses of 2 or more tarsal bones, and complete tarsal osteotomies that are performed by a licensed podiatrist shall be performed in a licensed hospital OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER, subject to the provisions of § 19-351 of the Health - General Article.

(B) A LICENSED PODIATRIST WHO PERFORMS A AN OSSEOUS SURGICAL PROCEDURE OF THE ANKLE ~~BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE DERMIS, ARTHRODESES~~ ARTHRODESIS OF 2 OR MORE TARSAL BONES, OR A COMPLETE TARSAL OSTEOTOMY IN A LICENSED AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER MUST:

(1) HAVE ~~ACTIVE~~ CURRENT SURGICAL PRIVILEGES AT A LICENSED HOSPITAL FOR THE SAME PROCEDURE; AND

(2) MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER.

[(b)](C) Nothing in this title shall prohibit a licensed hospital OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER from establishing qualifications or delineating privileges for the performance of surgical procedures of the HUMAN FOOT OR ankle [and], the anatomical structures that attach to the HUMAN foot, OR THE SOFT TISSUE BELOW THE MID-CALF by a licensed podiatrist in the hospital OR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.

May 20, 2005

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 622 - *Elections - Absentee Voting on Demand*

House Bill 622 eliminates the requirements that currently exist for a voter to qualify for an absentee ballot. Under current law, a voter is required to provide a statutory reason in order to cast an absentee ballot, such as service in the armed forces, illness, disability or absence from the polling place on Election Day. This bill would remove the existing restrictions on absentee eligibility and put Maryland in the category of a "no-excuse" absentee voting state.

Maryland has a national reputation as a state with a rich history of voter fraud. Over the years, the General Assembly has carefully crafted an election process that includes numerous safeguards to protect against voter irregularities. We require most voters to personally appear at their own election precinct on a single day, Election