

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

As Engrossed: H3/10/05

HR 1013

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5 By: Representatives Pace, *Maloch*

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 FOR A STUDY OF THE NEED TO REQUIRE ORTHOTISTS AND
10 PROSTHETISTS TO BE LICENSED UNDER ARKANSAS LAW.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 FOR A STUDY OF THE NEED TO REQUIRE
14 ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS TO BE
15 LICENSED UNDER ARKANSAS LAW.

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18 WHEREAS, orthotists design and fit orthoses, which are surgical
19 appliances, such as braces, special footwear, neck collars, or splints, that
20 aid movement, correct deformity, or relieve discomfort for any person who
21 requires a device to support or control a weakened part of the body; and
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23 WHEREAS, prosthetists design and fit prostheses, which are artificial
24 limbs for persons who have been born without an arm or leg or have lost a
25 limb as a result of disease or accident; and
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27 WHEREAS, orthotists and prosthetists work alongside doctors, nurses,
28 physical therapists, and occupational therapists to provide persons who need
29 orthoses or prostheses with the best possible range of health care services;
30 and
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32 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas requires doctors, nurses, physical
33 therapists, and occupational therapists to be licensed in order to practice
34 their respective professions within the state, while orthotists and
35 prosthetists are not similarly required to hold any kind of license or
36 certification; and



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WHEREAS, it would be helpful to members of the General Assembly to improve their understanding of the responsibilities of orthotists and prosthetists and the nature of the services that orthotists and prosthetists provide to health care consumers in the State of Arkansas so that the General Assembly will be in position to make an informed decision with regard to the need for licensure of orthotists and prosthetists,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That the House Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor is requested to study the scope of practice of orthotists and prosthetists, how orthotists and prosthetists interrelate with other health care providers, and the need for licensing orthotists and prosthetists in order to adequately protect the citizens of the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is requested to report its findings and recommendations to the Eighty-Sixth General Assembly.

/s/ Pace, et al